THE TALON
SOUTHERN MISS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • WINTER 2015
SOUTHERN MISS
88
C-USA
RESURGENCE
EAGLE FEVER REIGNITES

As an alum of Southern Miss, you could receive exclusive savings on auto and home insurance from Liberty Mutual.[1]

Join thousands of satisfied customers with Liberty Mutual Insurance.[2]

Discounted Rates—You could save up to $427.96 a year[3] on auto insurance and receive additional discounts on home insurance.

Exceptional Service—Whether you're in an accident or just need some advice, know we'll always be on call for you.

Superior Benefits—Enjoy a number of superior benefits, such as 24-Hour Claims Assistance, Accident Forgiveness[4], Roadside Assistance[5] and Better Car Replacement.™[6]

Liberty Mutual. INSURANCE

SOUTHERN MISS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TO THE TOP!

For a free quote, call 1-800-524-9400 or visit libertymutual.com/southernmissalumni.

[1] Discounts and savings are available where state laws and regulations allow, and may vary by state. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify. [2] Based on Liberty Mutual Insurance Company's 2013 Customer Satisfaction Survey in which more than 85% of policyholders reported their interaction with Liberty Mutual service representatives to be "among the best experiences" and "better than average." [3] Figure reflects average national savings for customers who switched to Liberty Mutual's group auto and home program. Based on data collected between 9/1/12 and 8/31/13. Individual premiums and savings will vary. [4] For qualifying customers only. Accident Forgiveness is subject to terms and conditions of Liberty Mutual's underwriting guidelines. Not available in CA and may vary by state. [5] With the purchase of optional Towing & Labor coverage. Applies to mechanical breakdowns and disablements only. Towing related to accidents would be covered under your Collision or Other Than Collision coverage. [6] Optional coverage. Applies to a covered total loss. Deductible applies. Does not apply to leased vehicles and motorcycles. Not available in NC.

Coverage provided and underwritten by Liberty Mutual Insurance and its affiliates, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

©2015 Liberty Mutual Insurance

THE TALON
SOUTHERN MISS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • WINTER 2015

"I believe, I do believe, yes, I do believe." – SOUTHERN MISS FOOTBALL FANS REVEL IN FANDOM.

DEPARTMENTS

7 Notes from Home
8 News Around Campus
13 Calendar of Events
14 Association News
25 Foundation News
52 The Arts
53 Greek
55 Eagle Club
56 Snapshots
58 Class Notes

COVER: Wide Receiver Mike Thomas celebrates after a big play against Old Dominion on Nov. 21.

ABOVE: Southern Miss players run onto Carlisle-Faulkner Field at M.M. Roberts Stadium for their last home game on Nov. 21.

COVER STORY

31 Resurgence: Eagle Fever Reignites

Southern Miss Football is experiencing resurgence in its fullest form. Coach Todd Monken gives a glimpse into how the Golden Eagles have come full circle – resurging from the ashes victorious and giving fans a reason to believe again.

FEATURES

12 Favre Among Seven Inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame

The 2015 Southern Miss Homecoming celebrations were headlined by the induction of seven new members into the Alumni Hall of Fame. The Alumni Hall of Fame Banquet honored dedicated and distinguished alumni whose contributions have helped move the University toward continued success.

35 Commemorating History
Celebrating 50 years of Desegregation

In 1965, Raylawni Branch and Gwendolyn Armstrong made history when they enrolled at The University of Southern Mississippi as the institution's first African-American students. This fall, the University commemorated that milestone with a series of 50th Anniversary events.

39 2014-15 Alumni Association Annual Report

The Southern Miss Alumni Association awarded more than $30,000 in scholarships to deserving students in 2015, while actively engaging the University's alumni through a series of local, regional and national events.

48 A Testimony of Faculty Engagement
Real World Experience Gives Rise to Research

Senior psychology major Sheila Bullock is taking her education to new heights with the Center for Undergraduate Research (CUR) through the Eagle Scholars Program for Undergraduate Research. Bullock's involvement in CUR has allowed her to achieve and exceed her educational goals while at Southern Miss.

ALUMNI STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JERRY DEFATTA '00, '10

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR INTERNAL OPERATIONS DANE REITER '06, '07, '10

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JENNY BOUDREAUX '08, '14

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNICATIONS NICOLE RUHNKE '08

MANAGER OF CONSTITUENT RELATIONS LAUREN RICHARDS '11

MANAGER OF PROGRAMS BAYLEE LONG

COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES MELISSA MCDANIEL

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT RENÉ TRIGG

DATA ENTRY SPECIALIST SHARON ANDERSON

RECEPTIONIST RENÉ KENT

MAIL CLERK EDWARD WALLACE

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT NICOLET HOPPER '15

• • • • •

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS VAN ARNOLD '79, JACK DUGGAN, HANNA KNOWLES '15, ASHLEA MADDOX, AMY MARTIN '06, DAWN SMITH '95, '12, JENNY TATE '11, DAVID TISDALE '90, '01

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS KELLY DUNN, JACK DUGGAN, ELDERTON IMAGES, PATRICK LOWERY '08/SOUTHERN MISS ATHLETICS, DANNY RAWLS '69, '80

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT SEAN MCGEE

PRESIDENT-ELECT BECKY MONTAGUE

VICE PRESIDENT TRACY POWELL

PAST PRESIDENT ANGIE COLLINS

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR ASHLEY READ

SECRETARY/TREASURER JERRY DEFATTA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CINDY DUVALL, KEVIN GILBERT, GENE GOUAUX, WREN HOOD, CHRIS LEONARD, CLAY PEACOCK, SUSAN SLAUGHTER, EMBER AHUA, VICKI ADKISON, MARY DAYNE GREGG, LANCE LEFAN, DAVID LEIVA, J.R. ROBINSON, GENE SMITH, KIM BRADLEY, SHONNA BROWN, BRADLEY CHARLESWORTH, CARLEN CHESTANG JR., RICHARD HAARALA, BRANDI HOUGH, SAM SACKLER

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS: RODNEY D. BENNETT, CHAD DRISKELL, REED ALLISON, STACE MERCIER, GRANT DYESS, BILL MCGILLIS, BRADLEY FLOORE

For advertising information, contact Jenny Boudreaux by phone at 601.266.5761 or email jenny.boudreaux@usm.edu.

The Talon (USPS 652-240) is published quarterly by The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association, 118 College Drive #5013, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
Active membership dues of $45 (single membership) or $55 (couple) includes subscription

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Hederman Brothers Printing in Ridgeland, Miss., and the staff of the Southern Miss Alumni Association.

Periodical postage paid at Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001 and at additional mailing offices
(Approved January 20, 1955)

POSTMASTER:

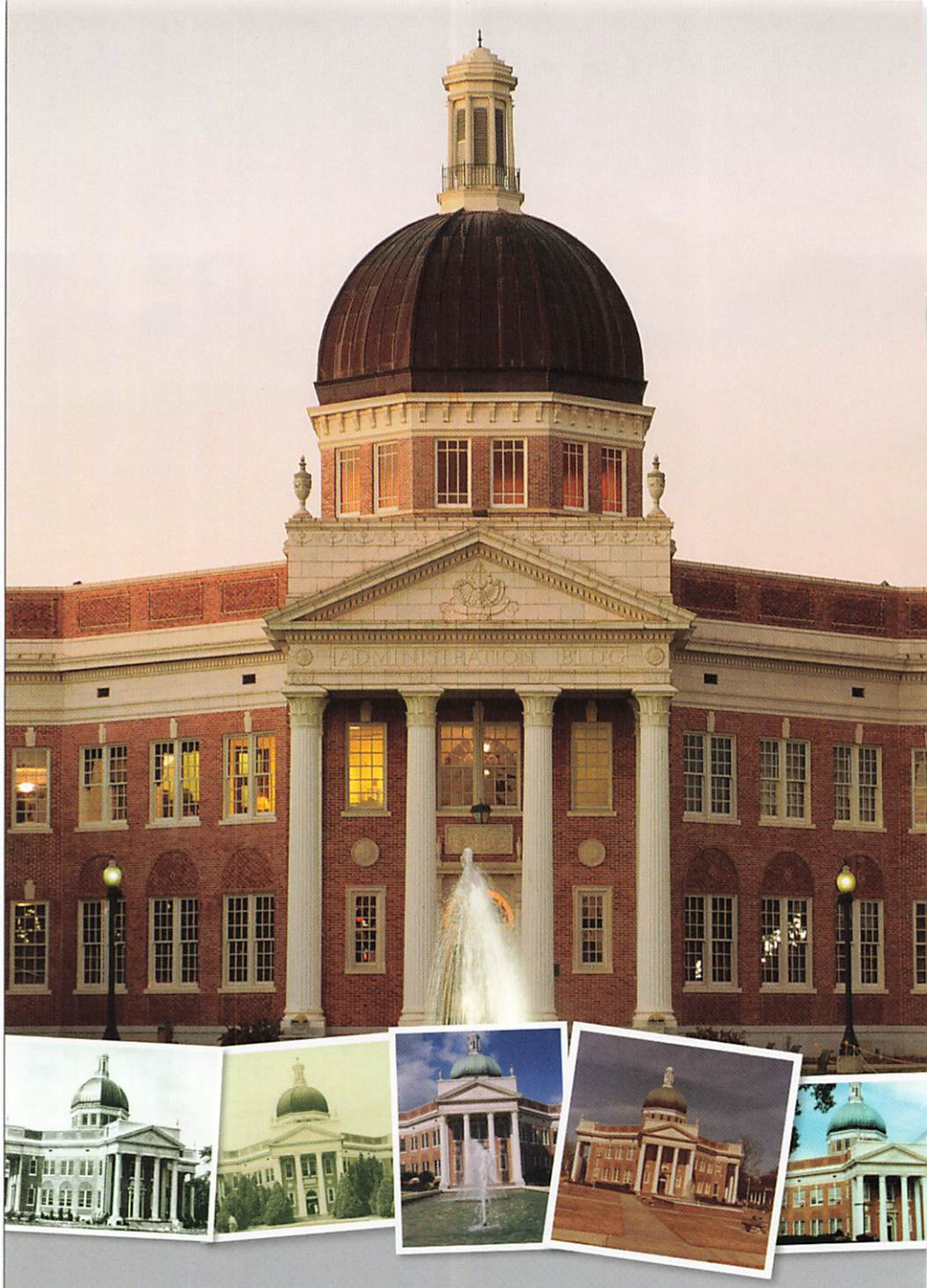
Send address changes to
118 College Drive #5013, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5013
PHONE: 601.266.5013 | EMAIL: alumni@usm.edu
WEBSITE: www.SouthernMissAlumni.com

Proud Member of

C-USA

www.conferenceusa.com

AA/EOE/ADAI



UPGRADE YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

Alumni loyalty is part of the reason the Alumni Association has been successful for nearly a century. Visit SouthernMissAlumni.com/Life to upgrade membership before the end of January and receive a Life Member calendar as a token of our appreciation.

December brings fall commencement, and the alumni ranks will swell by more than 1,000 Golden Eagle graduates. As alumni of The University of Southern Mississippi, we have sat in these same seats and walked across a similar stage. For students who have put in countless hours of studying and demonstrated the dedication needed to obtain a Southern Miss degree, it is one of the most exciting days of the year! A mix of emotions that include happiness, enthusiasm, appreciation, apprehension and many more fill Reed Green Coliseum as family and friends gather to celebrate this new class of Southern Miss alumni.

Commencement presents a time to reflect on years spent, memories made and knowledge gained while at Southern Miss. As the countdown clock ticks rather rapidly to the start of 2016 and we look forward to and prepare for the New Year, it is important we, too, take a moment to reflect on all the great things that have happened over the past year, several of which are highlighted within these pages.

The Alumni Association inducted seven of the University's most dedicated and distinguished alumni into the Hall of Fame during the 2015 Homecoming festivities. Turn to page 14 to read about each individual's astounding accomplishments and admirable contributions to society. Their strengths and ability to succeed are a direct reflection of their alma mater and demonstrate to the world what it truly means to be a Golden Eagle.

The University's highly anticipated 50th Anniversary of Desegregation Celebration occurred in 2015. Spanning an entire week, hundreds gathered to celebrate this momentous milestone. Turn to page 35 to learn more about the events surrounding this celebration and the two women who made history when they enrolled at Southern Miss as the institution's first African-American students.

The Sighting Southern Stars segment features a student who has studied on the Gulf Park campus and is an advocate for the Center for Undergraduate Research (CUR). Through providing meaningful research opportunities for students through CUR, your alma mater continues to advance its mission of being a premiere research university. Turn to page 48 to see how CUR is redefining the college experience by encouraging undergraduate students to take their classroom instruction to a deeper level through faculty-mentored research.

Lastly, it is only fitting to boast about our Golden Eagle football team and the alumni support we witnessed first-hand through attendance numbers at away-game Eagle Landing tailgates this season, no matter the location. As the story found on page 31 illustrates, "The Golden Eagles have come full circle, resurging from the ashes victorious, and giving Golden Eagle fans a reason to believe again."

The myriad of great things happening at Southern Miss are far too great to list. It is great to be a Golden Eagle and is an exciting time to be a member of the Southern Miss Alumni Association! We do realize there are a multitude of organizations you can be a part of, but we assure you that your dues are making a lasting impact on your alma mater, and your membership is more than a transaction.

A complement to the University, our organization has worked tirelessly over the past year to provide scholarships for children and grandchildren of alumni, played a key role in identifying potential Golden Eagles to enhance the recruitment process for Southern Miss legacies and provided support for a wide variety of University programs, including Southern Miss Athletics and the fine and performing arts.

When we begin 2016, and I have transitioned from the organization's assistant director for communications to the associate director of external affairs, I guarantee these aforementioned efforts will continue. In addition, as I previously took the management of *The Talon* and each aspect of the communication realm personally and to heart, I intend to do the same in this new role. As we prepare to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the organization in 2017, the staff of the Alumni Association is determined to transform the loyal and passionate Golden Eagle nation into increased Southern Miss Alumni Association membership.

As we reflect on the past year, like those making the transition from student into alumni prior to graduation, we are reminded this commencement ceremony is also a celebration of alumni like you who have paved the way for these students to be successful. For this, we appreciate you, your unwavering support and look forward to serving you in the coming year as we continue together to take...

Southern Miss To the Top!

Jenny Boudreaux

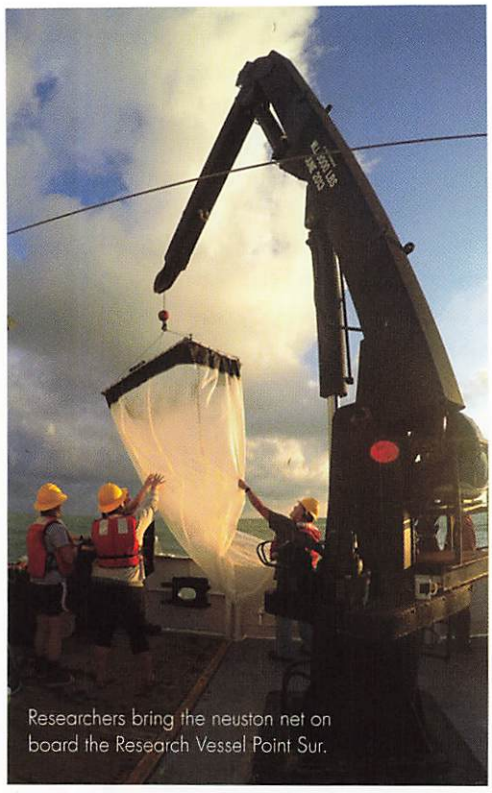
Jenny Boudreaux
Associate Director for External Affairs

USM-led CONCORDE Completes Successful Large-Scale Fall Research Campaign

CONCORDE, a GoMRI-funded scientific consortium based out of The University of Southern Mississippi, recently completed a large-scale research mission. Chosen to coincide with autumn's low river discharge period, the research campaign included scientists and students from six universities and two government labs, two state-of-the-art research vessels, a scientist sampling from smaller boats, another manning a gliding underwater robot from land, and commercial fishermen collecting data as they went about their routine at sea.

The various teams spent over a week in late October and early November collecting data along transects in the northern Gulf of Mexico from the Chandeleur Islands to the west and the Alabama-Florida border to the east. They simultaneously studied ocean models and satellite data to make sure the scientists continued to find features of interest for the project, such as river plumes.

The goal was to collect data to determine how freshwater outflow from rivers moves through and mixes with the salty water in the northern Gulf when the rivers are traditionally at their lowest volume. This exercise, coupled with a similar campaign in the spring when river stages tend to be highest, will help scientists understand how the interaction with incoming freshwater in the nearshore impacts microscopic marine life and how it could potentially guide the movement of oil or other pollutants in a future catastrophic event.



Researchers bring the neuston net on board the Research Vessel Point Sur.

Meeting between Famed Musicians Buffett, Taylor Formally Recognized at "The Hub" on Hattiesburg Campus

It was at the center of The University of Southern Mississippi's Hattiesburg campus nearly four decades ago that a chance encounter between two musicians led to one of America's great musical collaborations.

The spot where that meeting between Jimmy Buffett and Greg "Fingers" Taylor, who formed the famed "Coral Reefer Band," took place was signified with a bronze marker in a ceremony outside "The Hub" on Nov. 21.

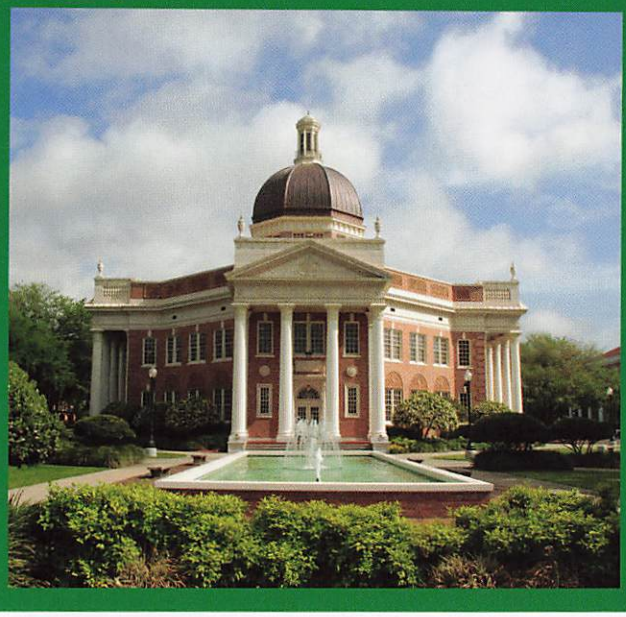
In the early 1970s, Buffett, who was then a recent USM graduate and Taylor, a Southern Miss student, met on the steps of the "The Hub." At the time, Buffett was playing on his guitar for some students on break from night class, and Taylor asked if he could join in with his harmonica.

What came from their meeting was a chemistry that produced a musical elixir for those yearning to escape life's troubles to the dreamy, carefree island life captured in some of the band's hit songs, including "Margaritaville" and "Cheeseburger in Paradise."

Taylor once said in an interview that there was an immediate "bonding" between he and Buffett after they met, and that the two knew they "were going to play music together somewhere down the line."

Buffett, who was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity while a student at USM, was represented at the ceremony by current Kappa Sigma President Phillip LeMere and Taylor was represented by his relative Harrison Cunningham.

Buffett earned a degree in history from Southern Miss in 1969 and performed, both solo and with a band known as "The Upstairs Alliance," at student hangouts on the Hattiesburg campus and beyond. His career resulted in more than 30 albums (eight gold and nine platinum), multiple honors that include a Grammy nomination, as well as three books that made the New York Times bestseller list in both the fiction and non-fiction categories. Taylor was a member of the Coral Reefer Band from the mid-1970s to 2001, and recorded more than half a dozen albums of his own. Both Buffett and Taylor are inductees in the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame.

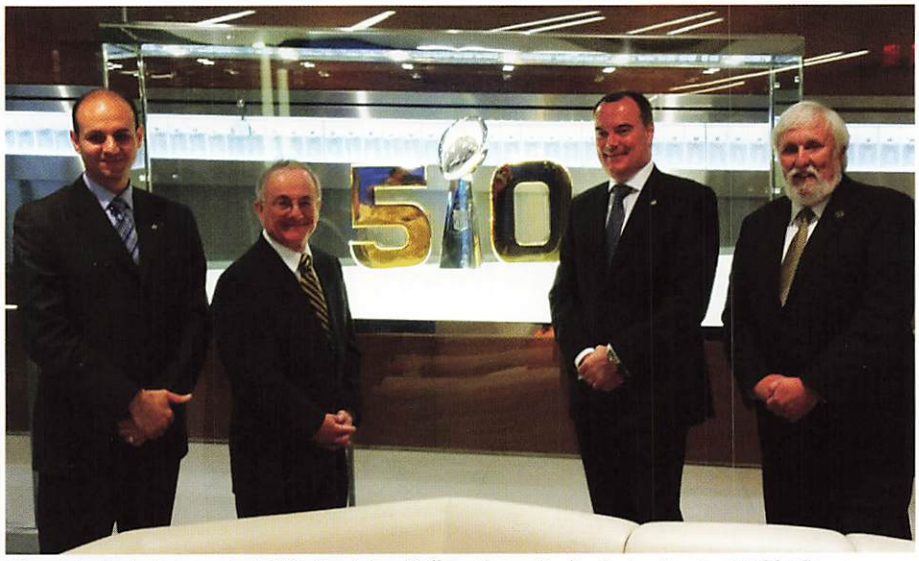


Southern Miss Ranks as Best College Location in Mississippi

The University of Southern Mississippi meets all the criteria to rank as the best college location in the State of Mississippi, according to a list from the academic-review website www.Niche.com.

The Best College Locations ranking provides a comprehensive assessment of the quality, safety and cost of living of the local area. The grade takes into account key factors such as local crime rates, access to bars and restaurants, median rent, local weather, a percentage of residents age 18-24 and student reviews in an attempt to measure the impact of the local area on the college experience. Hattiesburg, home to the University's primary campus, has a population of approximately 48,000 residents and is the largest city in Forrest County.

USM National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security Partners with INTERPOL on Risk Mitigation



Left to right: Khaled Hatem, INTERPOL Specialized Officer, Project Stadia; Dr. Lou Marciani, NCS4 Director, University of Southern Mississippi; Michael O'Connell, INTERPOL Director of Operational Support & Analysis and Head of Project Stadia; Dr. Gordon Cannon, Vice President for Research, University of Southern Mississippi.

The recent terrorist attacks in Paris have placed even greater significance on the partnership between the University of Southern Mississippi's National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS4) and the International Criminal Police Organization, INTERPOL.

Identifying opportunities for collaboration on major events security within their respective capacities was the focus of a meeting between NCS4 and INTERPOL representatives held in November. The meeting was also attended by representatives from U.S. national sports leagues, venues, associations and organizations, as well as law enforcement agencies which included the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI.

Discussions focused on cooperation in the area of law enforcement research, training and capacity building between INTERPOL's Project Stadia and NCS4 tied to sports safety and security. The meeting with the NCS4 National Advisory Board was held at the National Football League headquarters in New York.

NCS4 Director Dr. Lou Marciani noted that INTERPOL officials contacted the National Center about a year ago in search of an academic institution to support Project Stadia, which aims to create a center of excellence and good practice platform to help INTERPOL member countries in planning and executing physical security and cybersecurity preparations for major sporting events.

Dr. Gordon Cannon, Vice President for Research at Southern Miss, points out that Project Stadia gives NCS4 an opportunity to play a vital role in offering INTERPOL member-countries a repository of best practices. Among the primary objectives going forward at NCS4 is to produce a Professional Sport Facilities Best Practices Guide in 2016, and create by 2019 an international best practices outline through the partnership with INTERPOL.

Southern Exposure Reunion Held in Hattiesburg

Members of Southern Miss's former song and dance group, Southern Exposure, gathered in Hattiesburg for a reunion in July. Former group members from 1980-1991 traveled in from across the country for a weekend of opportunities to relive memories and make new ones. During its tenure, Southern Exposure traveled across the southeast providing energetic performances by talented college students as a recruiting tool for the University. Pictured above are former group members, first row, from left: Melissa Watts Hoefler, Jon Howard, Angela Trulsen Griffin, Mattelyn Cassels Chatham, Eddie Jones and Kay Laughlin Behm. Second row, from left: Rudy Rodriguez, Krista Pope-Zoellinger, Lana Larsen Dean, Eric Bounds, Nancy Wingo-Caffey (choreographer), Tim Breland (director, 1980-1991), Alesia Phillips Valentine and Jill Bailey Dawkins. Third row, from left: Charles Thomas, Ben Preston, Jorge Salazar and Jim Hennessey. Fourth row, from left: Kim Pope Nichols, David Judice, Craig Stevens, Jamie Satcher, Scott Slay and Rodger Gamber.

College of Business Honors Lock with Alumnus of Year Award

Duane Lock took the skills he learned more than 30 years ago as a business student at The University of Southern Mississippi and parlayed them into a successful career in the energy sector. On Nov. 12, the Southern Miss College of Business honored Lock with its Alumnus of the Year Award during a banquet held at Scianna Hall on the Hattiesburg campus. The award is sponsored by Joseph F. Boardman.

Lock earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Southern Miss in 1983, and has since earned an MBA from Rockhurst University in Kansas City. As president of River Oaks Energy, he oversees a company that offers energy consulting and risk management expertise to businesses in deregulated states across the country. He founded the company in 2004 and built it into a multi-million-dollar enterprise.

Dallas-based entrepreneur Duane Lock, left, was honored as the College of Business Alumnus of the Year during a ceremony held Nov. 12 on the Hattiesburg campus. Pictured with Lock is Dr. Faye Gilbert, dean of the College of Business at Southern Miss.

Lock grew up on a farm in Brandon, Miss., before graduating from Pelahatchie (Miss.) High School. He recalls, as a 15-year-old, visiting his older brothers who were enrolled at Southern Miss. From an early age, he learned the value of discipline and education.

In addition to brokering and trading energy commodities, Lock is also a member of the Council of Advisors for energy, based in New York. As a member of the Council, he consults regularly with investment banking firms such as Capital Advisors, Goldman Sachs and others on matters related to energy policy, market structure and regulatory activities.

His energy career began after 10 successful years at Xerox Corporation from 1984-1994 in various locations in the U.S. He proudly served four years in the United States Marine Corps active reserve. Lock, his wife, Kathy, and their children, live in the Dallas area.

Project SEARCH Southern Miss Launches on Hattiesburg Campus

For seven Hattiesburg High students, the first-day-of-school jitters were different than for most. Instead of starting their last year of secondary school studying customary classwork, these students began a new pilot program in Mississippi called Project SEARCH Southern Miss. On Aug. 17, these students began a journey toward independence, adulthood and employment. Project SEARCH Southern Miss is an eight-month training program that consists of daily employment preparatory skills training, community development, mentoring services and work internships. The goal is to increase the number of young adults with intellectual/cognitive and other developmental disabilities to obtain competitive, community-based employment. Project SEARCH is driven by collaboration with strong Hattiesburg community partners, and The University of Southern Mississippi serves as the host business. The Hattiesburg School District provides a full-time teacher while the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services supplies two job coaches and the Mississippi Division of Medicaid offers waiver services for long-term support.

Project SEARCH Interns and Staff meet with President Bennett

Project SEARCH ® began in 1996 when Erin Riehle, director of the Emergency Department at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, took her frustration of having high turnover jobs and turned it into a creative and innovative employment program for people with disabilities, especially those with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Project SEARCH Southern Miss is the first program in Mississippi, joining over 400 programs across the United States and additional programs internationally. For more information on Project SEARCH Southern Miss, contact Project SEARCH Coordinator Jin Joo Crosby at 601.266.6037. To learn more about the Institute for Disability Studies, call 601.266.5163 or visit: http://www.usm.edu/disability-studies. The coordination and development of the Project SEARCH Southern Miss Program is funded through a grant from the Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities.

JOIN THE
GOLDEN EAGLES
At the Finish Line!

FINISH LINE

2701 Lincoln Road
Hattiesburg, MS

6762 Hwy 49 North
Hattiesburg, MS

2306 Hardy Street
Hattiesburg, MS

3809 Hardy Street
Hattiesburg, MS

4960 Hardy Street
Hattiesburg, MS

303 Main Street
Lumberton, MS

416 Highway 42 East
Petal, MS

6497 Highway 49 North
Hattiesburg, MS

STUDENTS

Mississippi's most important investment

Today's economy. Jobs of tomorrow. The future prosperity of our communities is built on the success of our state's university students. That's why investing in higher education is critical.

From providing opportunities for first-generation and nontraditional students to developing skills for a new generation of business, government, and community leaders, Mississippi's public universities are committed to our students' success. Our graduates are prepared for any career, and they're proving they'll make a difference in moving our state forward.

The return on investing in higher education?
Mississippi's future.

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES
ADVANCING OUR STATE TOGETHER

Alcorn State University | Delta State University | Jackson State University
Mississippi State University | Mississippi University for Women | Mississippi Valley State University
The University of Mississippi | The University of Southern Mississippi

WWW.MISSISSIPPI.EDU

Upcoming Events Calendar

All events are subject to change and should be confirmed. Visit SouthernMissAlumni.com/UpcomingEvents for a full list of events hosted by the Alumni Association. Athletic schedules can be found at SouthernMiss.com.

January

4 **Gulf Park and Hattiesburg Campuses Reopen from Holiday Break**

18 **Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday**

21 **The Pulitzer Prize in Mississippi: Responding to Natural Disasters**
Fleming Education Center Auditorium | 5-7 p.m.
Gulf Park Campus

23 **Volunteer Leadership Summit**
Ogletree House | 2 - 6 p.m.

28 **Boys and Girls Club Night at Men's Basketball Game**
Hosted by the South Central Mississippi Alumni Chapter
Reed Green Coliseum | 7 p.m. | Southern Miss Men's Basketball vs. UTEP

29 **Krewe of Southern Miss Mardi Gras Ball**
Hardy Hall Ballroom | 7-10 p.m. | Gulf Park Campus

February

15 **Scholarship Deadline**
To explore available scholarship opportunities for your student, visit USMFoundation.com/GO.

March

25 **Good Friday Holiday**

26 **Jazz and Blues Festival**
Gulf Park Campus
This event will feature an Easter egg hunt for children ages 12 and under, local artists and craftsmen, food vendors and activities for the entire family. For more information, visit usm.edu/jazz-blues.

28-31 **Founders' Week**
A week-long celebration of the University's founding hosted by The Legacy, the student chapter of the Southern Miss Alumni Association.

30 **Founders' Day Ceremony**

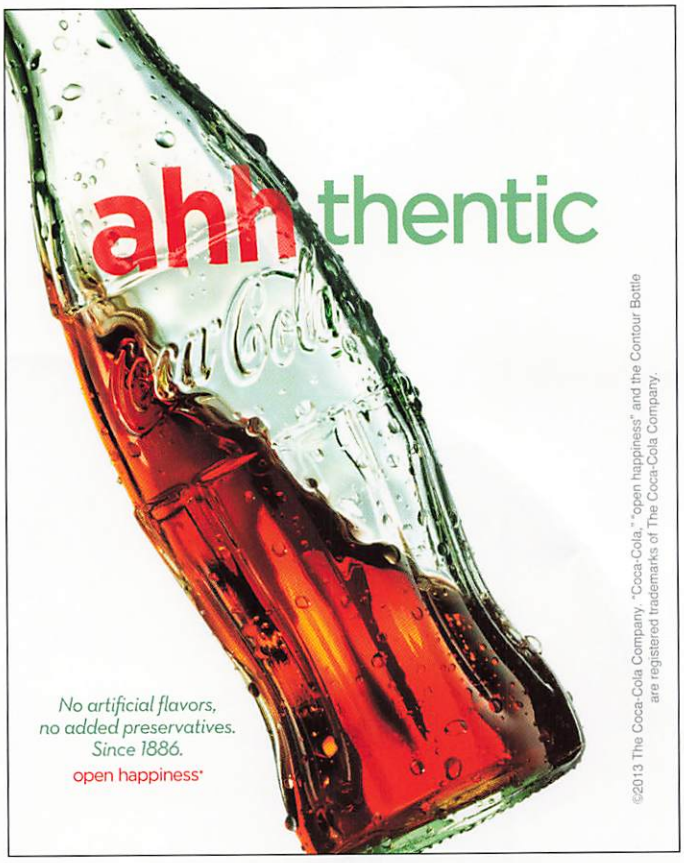
April

1 **USM Foundation Black Tie Gala**
Biloxi | Beau Rivage Resort and Casino

THEN AND Now

A great deal has changed for Whitney Miller '11 since she graduated from The University of Southern Mississippi. While a senior at Southern Miss, Miller won the first season of Fox's reality cooking show, *Masterchef,* and released her first cookbook, *Modern Hospitality,* the following year.

Turn to page 65 to see what Whitney Miller has accomplished since being featured in the winter 2010 edition of *The Talon.*


ahh thentic
No artificial flavors,
no added preservatives.
Since 1886.
open happiness
©2013 The Coca-Cola Company. "Coca-Cola," "open happiness" and the Contour Bottle are registered trademarks of The Coca-Cola Company.

ALUMNI HALL of FAME
CLASS OF 2015

The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association inducted seven of the University's most dedicated and distinguished volunteers into its Hall of Fame on October 16 as one of the highlights of the 2015 Homecoming celebration. Visit SouthernMissAlumni.com to view a video presentation of the 2015 inductees and to also submit a Hall of Fame nomination for the 2016 induction.

The 2015 inductees into the Alumni Hall of Fame include, from left, Jim Borsig, Gilbert C. Van Loon, Brett Favre, Gail C. Megason, Tom "Bones" Malone, Andy Mercier and Todd Buchanan.

The Southern Miss Alumni Hall of Fame was established in 1987 to recognize those whose contributions of time and financial means have helped move the University forward.

The 2015 inductees include:

Jim Borsig '78 '89

Jim Borsig began his public service career in 1980 as the assistant to the mayor of Hattiesburg. In 2011, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning elected him as the 14th president of Mississippi University for Women.

During his presidency, he has encouraged inclusive, evidence-based decision-making by seeking broad-based participation on issues ranging from branding to leadership program design, while bringing renewed focus to student recruitment, retention and graduation. This past year "The W" awarded the largest number of degrees in its history.

His university presidency was preceded by tenure as associate commissioner for external relations and public policy for the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.

In the public university system, Jim served as executive assistant to the president of Southern Miss and as research and development coordinator for the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, based at Mississippi State University. He also has been a visiting professor in Jackson State University's Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

He is active in his community, state and profession and has served on the Board of Directors of the United Way of Lowndes County. An Eagle Scout, he is currently council president of the Pushmataha Area Boy Scout Council. He serves as the co-chair of Mississippi's Education Achievement Council and as a member of the Policies and Purposes Committee of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

A native of Jackson, Jim holds a bachelor's degree in political science and American Studies and a master's degree in political science with a concentration in public administration from Southern Miss. He earned a doctorate in public policy and administration from Mississippi State University.

Todd Buchanan '90

During his time at Southern Miss, Todd Buchanan served the student body by being Student Government Association president and attorney general, Sigma Alpha Epsilon president and rush chairman, ROTC scholarship awardee and cadet, a University cheerleader and Mr. USM.

Todd credits Southern Miss with taking a young man that grew up in a less-than-desirable situation and showing him what is possible with an education, hard work and strong personal relationships.

Upon graduating with a business degree in 1990, Todd entered the United States Army. He excelled as an artillery officer at duty stations in Germany and Oklahoma and was

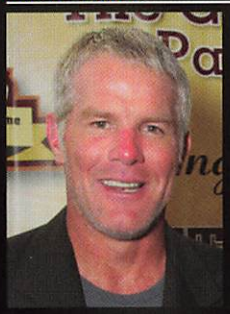
selected to attend both the Army Ranger and Airborne schools during his six years of active duty.

After leaving the Army in 1996, Buchanan joined AIG VALIC as a financial advisor. Now in his 20th year with the company, he resides in Tampa, Fla., and is responsible for all operations throughout the southeastern United States. He manages a group of 400 employees spread across six states and has more than $20 billion in client assets under his management.

Todd remains active in organizations he is passionate about. At the age of 39, he became the youngest national president in the 151-year history of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity. He also stepped forward as a key contributor to Scianna Hall. Locally, he serves as the vice chairman of the Outback Bowl and as a board member for the Tampa Bay Sports Commission and St. John's Episcopal Parish Day School.

He and his wife Babsie, a 1996 Southern Miss graduate, enjoy traveling the world with their three children Riley, Ashton and Carly.

Brett Favre



Former NFL quarterback Brett Favre attended The University of Southern Mississippi, where he had a stellar college career starting at the quarterback position for four years. As a college player, he packed a toughness his teammates easily admired, with a propensity for late-game heroics. During his time as a Golden Eagle, he also set several school records.

In 1991, Brett was selected by the Atlanta Falcons in the NFL draft. Following his trade to the Green Bay Packers the following year, he led the franchise to victory in Super Bowl XXXI. He was also named the league's most valuable player three years in a row. After stints with the New York Jets and Minnesota Vikings, he retired from football after the 2010 season.

Brett holds many NFL records, including most career passing yards, most career pass completions, most career pass attempts, most consecutive starts by a player and most career victories as a starting quarterback.

One of the greatest players in Green Bay's storied history, Brett was honored with induction into the Packers Hall of Fame in 2015.

In 1995, Brett, along with his wife Deanna, began their charity outreach by donating to agencies providing support and services to disadvantaged and disabled children in Mississippi and Wisconsin. In 2005, the Favres extended their mission statement to include supporting organizations providing financial aid for breast cancer patients.

Since the inception of the Favre 4 Hope Foundation, over $7 million dollars has been donated to charities, including The Children's Center for Communication and Development at Southern Miss.

Tom "Bones" Malone

A trombonist, multi-instrumentalist, arranger and producer, Tom "Bones" Malone is among the most experienced professionals in the business. As his nickname implies, he specializes on the trombone, but also plays trumpet, tuba, tenor sax, baritone sax, flute, piccolo and other instruments.

Tom is best known for being a member of The Blues Brothers Band, Saturday Night Live Band, where he served as leader of the band from 1981-85, and the CBS Orchestra, the house band for the *Late Show with David Letterman*. He has played on 4,400-plus television shows, been featured in more than 3,000 radio and television commercials, has been involved in over 1,250 recordings and performed thousands of live performances throughout the world. His solo album, *Soul Bones*, features guest appearances by Paul Shaffer and Blues Traveler's John Popper.

In 2011, Tom was guest soloist with the University's Symphony Orchestra. It was then he was presented with the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame Award.

Tom has performed, recorded and/or arranged for Paul McCartney, Ray Charles, James Brown, Stevie Wonder, Ringo Starr, Sting, James Taylor, Elton John, Katy Perry, Tony Bennett, Aretha Franklin, BB King, Blood, Sweat and Tears, Frank Zappa, The BeeGees, Bette Midler, Bruce Springsteen, Diana Ross, Eric Clapton, Faith Hill, Frankie Valli, Garth Brooks, J. Geils Band, Jeff Beck, Phil Collins, Pink Floyd, Cyndi Lauper, Steve Winwood, Whitney Houston, Willie Nelson, Wilson Pickett, Dolly Parton, Olivia Newton-John and hundreds more.

"Practice hard and think big," are the words Tom Malone gives as advice to aspiring musicians and words he has followed in mastering his career.

Gail C. Megason '81

Gail C. Megason graduated from Southern Miss in 1981 with an ACS-certified degree in chemistry and was one of many from her family to attend the University.

Enrolling at Southern Miss two weeks into the semester, Gail studied hard to catch up and remembers her professor, Dr. Stella Elakovich, noticed her effort and gave her the opportunity to work in her lab as a research assistant. She encouraged Gail to consider medical school, which changed her life direction and renewed her confidence and will to succeed.

Gail attended medical school in Jackson and graduated in 1985. She then completed a pediatric residency, and after two years in private practice on the Gulf Coast, returned to complete fellowship training in pediatric hematology oncology. She also trained in bone marrow transplant in Seattle, Wash.,

so she could start a pediatric stem cell transplant program at the Batson Children's Hospital.

Gail is blessed to work with nurses, social workers, psychologists, professionals in child life and education, fellows, nurse practitioners and her partners who all thrive on caring for these special children. She became the director, Pediatric Residency Program when Dr. Moffitt, her mentor, left the role in 1996, and later took over leadership of the Division of Pediatric Hematology Oncology in 2006.

She currently is a tenured professor of pediatrics and holds the D. Jeanette Pullen Endowed Chair of Pediatrics. Today, she is the medical director for the Batson Children's Hospital Laboratory and leads a division of eight physicians, four fellows and two nurse practitioners. She also has the pleasure of teaching students and young physicians. Gail believes her mother, who had simply wanted her to "just get certified to teach," would be very proud of her daughter today.

Andy Mercier '83, '84

Andy Mercier is the president and chief executive officer of The Merchants Company, which operates Merchants Foodservice, a broad-line foodservice distributor, and Sunrise Fresh Produce. Since 1993, Andy has helped lead the growth of the company from $80,000,000 in sales from two Mississippi locations to $700,000,000 in sales from seven locations across the Southeast. With more than 800 employees, Merchants is the 12th largest foodservice distributor in the country and one of the top 10 private companies in the state.

Andy received his bachelor's degree in accounting and data processing in 1983 and his Master of Professional Accountancy in 1984 from Southern Miss.

Andy has served the University in several capacities including the Alumni Association Board of Directors, the Foundation and the Real Estate Foundation. In 1996 he was named outstanding alumnus by the Beta Alpha Psi chapter of the School of Professional Accountancy.

Currently he is vice chairman of the Area Development Partnership Board of Directors. Andy is also one of the original founders of the Greater Pinebelt Community Foundation where he served on the Board of Directors for ten years.

With a strong belief in the importance of education, Andy has helped fund more than 250 scholarships to students attending colleges across the state and 20 financial need scholarships to students attending Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hattiesburg through personal and corporate charitable giving.

The Merciers are the proud parents of Ann Marie, a second-year medical student at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and Betsy, a senior elementary education major at Southern Miss.

Gilbert C. Van Loon '81

Biloxi native Gilbert Van Loon received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, *summa cum laude*, from Southern Miss in 1981. Following graduation, Gilbert practiced accounting with a Mississippi Gulf Coast CPA firm. He became a certified public accountant in 1982 and was the recipient of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants Silver Medal for the November 1981 CPA exam.

Gilbert received his Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, from the University of Mississippi in 1985 and his Master of Laws in Taxation from the University of Florida in 1986.

After practicing with a boutique tax firm in Jackson, Gilbert later joined Butler Snow, LLP in its Jackson office, where he became a partner in 1992. He is a member of the firm's Business Services practice group, where his primary practice area is employee benefits and executive compensation.

Gilbert has been listed in the *Best Lawyers in America* for employee benefits law since 1999 and was named as *Best Lawyer's* 2011 Lawyer of the Year for Mississippi for employee benefits law.

He is a contributor to the USM Foundation and is currently serving his second term on the Board of Directors. Gilbert has served as chair of the Policy and Bylaws Committee and the Investment Committee and currently serves on the Investment Committee. Gilbert is a Life Member of the Alumni Association and an Eagle Club member.

Gilbert is married to the former Clare Thomas of Jackson, and they reside in Jackson. They are the parents of two children (and hopefully future Golden Eagles), Bryant and Mary Clare.

Several members of The Legacy, the student chapter of the Alumni Association, attended and assisted with the 2015 Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Pictured left to right, Ryan Bolanos, Rachel Lambert, Danielle Johnson, President Bradley Floore, Vice President Autumn Sobel, Kayla Hubbard and Nick Fountain.

2015 AWARD WINNERS

Each year at Homecoming, the Alumni Association honors distinguished alumni and the University's most faithful servants at the Annual Awards Lunch and Business Meeting. While nominations are accepted year round, submissions must be received by May 30 of each year for the approaching Homecoming ceremonies in the fall. The Alumni Association presents six awards annually, a list that includes:

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD
Given to up to seven alumni based on their service to the University.

CONTINUOUS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD
Given to up to five alumni for their long-term efforts and dedication to Southern Miss.

SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD
Given to individuals, not necessarily alumni, who have made a significant, unique contribution to the University, community or his or her profession.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS/ALUMNA AWARD
Given to one alum, thirty-six years of age or younger, who has made contributions of time and effort to the University, community and his or her profession.

FRIEND OF SOUTHERN MISS AWARD
Given to one individual annually who is not an alum but has contributed greatly to the progress of Southern Miss throughout the years.

MORAN POPE MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD
Given to one alum annually who has continued to give of his or her time and talents throughout the years to recognize outstanding alumni support, professional achievement, loyalty and service to the University.

Wade Howk
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

A Life Member of the Southern Miss Alumni Association, Wade Howk is a two-time graduate of The University of Southern Mississippi. A certified public accountant, Wade has worked in the gaming industry on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for more than 20 years and is currently the vice president of operations for Boomtown Casino Biloxi.

A member of several professional organizations and recipient of numerous awards, Wade teaches a class in casino finance at Southern Miss, as well as a class in casino accounting at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Wade and his wife, Amy, own a T-shirt company called Palm and Hammock and have two children, Carter and Grant.

Becky Sullivan
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

A native of Hattiesburg, Becky Sullivan has many family members who are Golden Eagles! A 1986 Southern Miss graduate, Becky was a Presidential Scholar, a member of The Pride of Mississippi Marching Band and a letterman with the swim team.

Becky has been a management consultant for 15 years and is currently the senior engagement manager for Cloud Cruiser for North America.

This Life Member of the Alumni Association has been the Alumni Ambassador for the Dallas-Ft. Worth area for the last four years. Becky is married to David Friedersdorff and is the daughter of Southern Miss alumni Homer and Billie Sullivan.

Janet Walker
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

During her time as a student and now as an alumna, Janet Payne Walker has sought to find ways to use her talents as a graphic designer to contribute to Southern Miss. As a student, she was both a designer and the editor of *The Southerner* and earned her bachelor's degree in art with an emphasis in graphic communication in 2006.

Janet is now the director of creative services for the College of Communication and Information Sciences at the University of Alabama, where she is also an instructor for the Department of Advertising and Public Relations.

Janet has served multiple terms on the Association's Publications Board and assists with the overall design of *The Talon*.

Valencia Walls
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Valencia Walls is a native of Jackson and received a Bachelor of Science in child and family studies in 2002 and a Master of Education in higher education in 2006, both from Southern Miss. She

has worked in higher education for 11 years, nine of which have been at USM.

A member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Valencia has received many honors, including the Citizen of the Year Award from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the Outstanding Service Award from the Hattiesburg National Pan-Hellenic Council and Advisor of the Year by the Office of Student Activities. She currently serves as coordinator for the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services at Southern Miss.

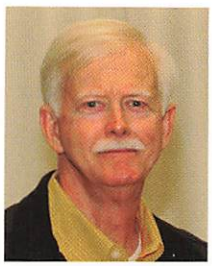
Brittney Westbrook
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

A second-generation Southern Miss legacy, Brittney Westbrook began her career at Southern Miss in the Office of University Communications as a graphic designer. Currently, she is the assistant director for marketing communications.

Brittney received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic design and a Master of Science in public relations from Southern Miss, and has received multiple state and regional awards for her work in advertising and graphic design.

She enjoys giving back to the next generation of communications professionals at USM through serving as a judge during the annual MCJ Student Showcase and mentoring public relations and advertising students throughout the year. She and her husband, Nathan, have two children, Dakota and Gunner.

Tom King
CONTINUOUS SERVICE AWARD



Born in Hattiesburg, Tom King graduated from Southern Miss in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science degree in history with a minor in secondary education. Presently, Tom is serving his first term as Southern District Transportation Commissioner, after serving 19 years in the Mississippi State Legislature.

Tom is a Life Member of the Alumni Association and a member of the Alumni Hall of Fame, and has stated publicly that it has been his honor to work with Southern Miss on many campus grant projects that benefit the faculty and students.

Tom and his wife, the former Susan Patterson, have two sons, Dr. Clay King and Chad King, and two grandchildren, Caroline and Mary Catherine.

Anne Larman
CONTINUOUS SERVICE AWARD

Anne Sharp Larman from Sebring, Fla., attended Southern Miss in the early 60s and was a member of the Dixie Darlings. Through her tireless efforts and vision, she created the Dixie Darlings Alumnae Association in 1993, which now boasts more than 1,200 members. Each year since 1996, during the annual Homecoming festivities, members of the alumnae association gather, scholarships are awarded to the current team members and a donation is made to breast cancer research.

Anne has been a successful businesswoman and fundraiser for more than 30 years. She is now retired and living in Nampa, Idaho, where she is an active volunteer and enjoys spending time with her grandson, William.

Clay Peacock
CONTINUOUS SERVICE AWARD

The 2014 Alumni Ambassador of the Year, Clay Peacock resides in Atlanta, Ga. This award recognized Clay as the top alumni ambassador for overall excellence in leadership during 2014. Clay has held two leadership positions since becoming an alumnus of Southern Miss, serving as the organization's Alumni Ambassador since 2005 and the Eagle Club's District Representative since 2009.

Clay has had a hand in organizing countless events in the Atlanta area, but most notably, Peacock was instrumental in the launch of the Mississippi Picnic in Atlanta, an event he has chaired in the past.

Tommy Conway
SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD

Father Tommy Conway was born and raised in Galway, Ireland. He is from a family of 13 children, has 33 nieces and nephews, and 15 "greats" with one more on the way! He graduated from Carlow College in 1986 and was ordained to the priesthood.

Fr. Tommy came to Hattiesburg and instantly became a Southern Miss fan in

all sports. He served as chaplain for the football team for five football seasons and has taught classes for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Currently he is the founding pastor of St. Fabian Church in Lamar County. You can spot him at any and all Southern Miss functions and sporting events, and is regularly seen with Southern Miss legend Brett Favre.

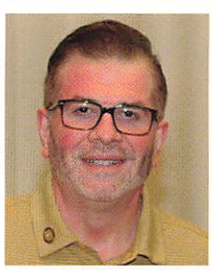
Kelly Dunn
SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD

A small portion of Kelly Dunn's remarkable photography work has been featured throughout *The Talon* for a number of years.

Kelly has been staff photographer for Southern Miss for 15 years. Her work has been published in various news outlets, including the *New York Times*.

She has worked with numerous non-profit organizations and recently was featured in Photographers Without Borders' blog as part of a documentary workshop in Costa Rica. She has taught workshops for professional organizations and children alike, teaching how to see with a camera. A Hattiesburg native, Kelly received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Delta State University in 2000.

Mike Lopinto
SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD



Dr. Mike Lopinto is a Pine Belt arts icon. He received three degrees from Southern Miss, where he currently serves as the public relations/marketing and event coordinator for the School of Music.

A true Renaissance man, he has written, directed and designed sets and lighting for numerous productions, most recently directing Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's *Mary Poppins* in 2015, which was featured on the cover of the winter 2014 edition of *The Talon*.

Mike's voice can be heard at all Southern Miss games as "The Voice of The Pride" and on commercials across the South.

Bryan Bruner
OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD

A native of Baytown, Texas, Bryan Bruner currently resides in Houston, Texas. He graduated from Southern Miss in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science.

Bryan is employed by Chevron Corporation in Houston as the trading systems development team lead. He is married to Lindsay Westendorf Bruner, also a Southern Miss graduate, and they are both Life Members of the Alumni Association. They are active supporters of the Southern Miss track and field program and the women's volleyball team. The Bruners have two boys, Kent, who is three years old; and Atticus, who is 17 months.

Kelly Gene Cook Sr. Charitable Foundation
FRIEND OF SOUTHERN MISS AWARD

Established in 1986 by Kelly Gene Cook Sr. and his wife Peggy, the Kelly Gene Cook Sr. Charitable Foundation provides funds to support charitable, religious, educational and scientific organizations.

The Cook Foundation has awarded more than $3.2 million to the DuBard School. They began awarding scholarships to undergraduate students at Southern Miss in 2000, and followed in 2001 by adding graduate assistantships in speech language pathology. Over the course of 15 years, the Cook Foundation has awarded more than $1.3 million in scholarships to undergraduates and graduates at Southern Miss.

Lou Ann Poynter
MORAN POPE MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Lou Ann Poynter graduated from Southern Miss with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1969 and a Master of Science degree in accounting in 1970. A certified public accountant, Lou Ann had a 32-year career in banking, serving as president and CEO of Magnolia Federal Bank and senior executive vice president of Union Planters Bank, prior to her retirement in 2004.

Lou Ann has served as president of both the USM Foundation and the Southern Miss Alumni Association and is a member of the Alumni Hall of Fame. She was the 2008 recipient of the College of Business Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Lou Ann and her husband Louis, a 1991 graduate of Southern Miss, live in Hattiesburg and have one daughter, Melissa, who lives in Dallas, Texas, with her husband, Jeffrey Powell, both Southern Miss graduates.

Award nominations for 2016 can be made by visiting SouthernMissAlumni.com.

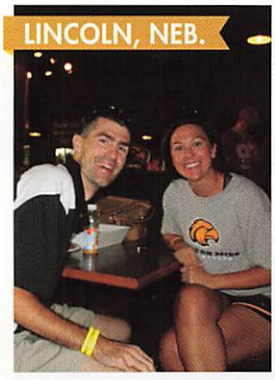
Eagle Landing Tailgates Draw Crowds During 2015 Football Season

The Southern Miss Alumni Association hosted four Eagle Landing tailgate events throughout the 2015 football season. Nearly 1,000 alumni and friends came together for tailgating activities in Lincoln, Neb., Charlotte, N.C., Houston, Texas and Ruston, La., as well as a pre-game event, courtesy of Sim-Tex L.P., prior to the contest against Texas State in San Marcos, Texas.

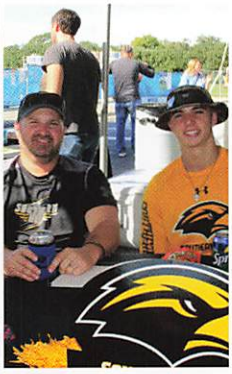
A benefit of Alumni Association membership, Eagle Landing tailgates are hosted at select road games throughout each football season and are free for all active members.

"This has been such an exciting time not only for our football team, but for all Golden Eagle fans," said BayLee Long, manager of programs for the Alumni Association. "Having the opportunity to celebrate with Southern Miss fans from across the country adds another element to our Southern Miss pride. We hope that everyone enjoyed the Eagle Landing tailgate events as much as we did, and we look forward to hosting them again next year!"

LINCOLN, NEB.



HOUSTON, TEXAS



CHARLOTTE, N.C.

RUSTON, LA.

WELCOME NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Ember Ahua
James Anders
Charlotte Arnold
Stephen Bailey
Larry Bateman
Loren Blackwell
Margaret Breedlove
John Burton
Chris Callac
Norman Cannon
Paul Carter
Paul and Wendy Cartwright
Marsha Case
Chadler Cornett
Julie Crocker
Joe S. Davis
Tracy Dees
Earl Deibler
Jessie Doss
Herman and Hazel Gaines
Greer Garraway
Terrance Green
Stephen Helms
Blake Houston
Reeve and Pamela Jacobus
Melanie Kirk
Steven and Angela Krohn
Anne Larman
Ralph Likins
Randall Love
Michael and Leslie McKenzie
Christy Meyers
Dana Morgan
Harry Nause
Terry and Sandra Norris
James and Melissa Odom
Charles and Norma Payne
John Pitts
Tom and Martha Porter
George Puckett
Melanie Reed
Kenneth and Carmen Robinson
Barbara Roland
Thecia Smith
Estee Snowden
Wendy Sonstrom
Sarah Spencer
Randal and Cynthia Stricklin
Richard and Johanna Thompson
Gilbert Van Loon
Chad Vivien
Bryant Walley
Patricia Walters
Gary Williams
Tracy and Stephanie Williams
Terri Williams
Jason and Joy Yates

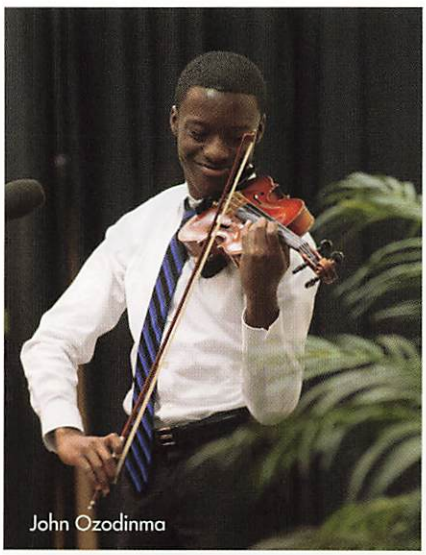
Minority Engagement Committee Hosts African-American Alumni Homecoming Brunch

On Oct. 18, 2015, the Southern Miss Alumni Association, in partnership with the organization's minority engagement committee, hosted the African-American Alumni Homecoming Brunch as the final event of this year's Homecoming activities.

More than 180 guests attended the event held in the Thad Cochran Center. Junior music performance major John Ozodinma once again provided musical entertainment, while members of the University community, such as Dean of Students Dr. Eddie Holloway, Vice President for External Affairs Chad Driskell and Executive Director of the Southern Miss Alumni Association Jerry DeFatta rounded out the agenda.

Remarks were given by Dr. John Kelly, chief administrative officer for the City of Gulfport, who also participated on the Alumni Association's desegregation panel discussion at the Gulf Park Campus.

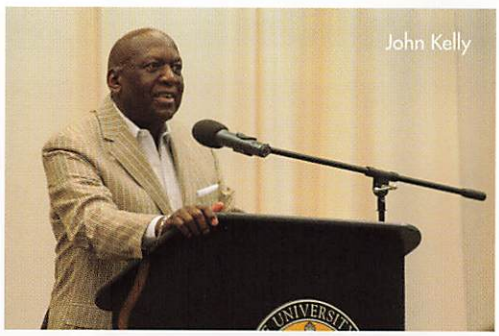
"The brunch was a great continuation of the desegregation celebrations on campus," said BayLee Long, manager of programs for the Alumni Association. "The excitement from these events has created a lasting energy for our alumni community. We were eager to once again participate in this great event during one of the University's most high-spirited weeks."



John Ozodinma

Following the brunch, photos were taken of members of each NPHC organization in attendance.

Guests of all ages enjoyed the African-American Alumni Brunch held on Oct. 18.



John Kelly

Those in attendance listened to remarks made by several University staff members.

SOUTHERN MISS ALUMNI

FINISH LINE

HOMECOMING SCHOLARSHIP

Golf Tournament

PRESENTED BY Coca-Cola

The Southern Miss Alumni Association extends its gratitude and appreciation to the sponsors and participants of the 2015 Homecoming Golf Tournament. The tournament marked the 17th consecutive year with major corporate sponsorship and was played at Hattiesburg Country Club.

The tournament featured 116 golfers and 44 sponsors, with proceeds from the event helping to support the Association's Pierce Legacy Scholarship Fund, from which the organization awards scholarships to select children and grandchildren of Southern Miss alumni.

THANK YOU!

Anderson Paint & Decorating
B.W. Sullivan Building Contractor
Ben Calhoun State Farm Insurance
Bob Palmer Chancellor Motor
Boot Country
The Camellia House
Campus Book Mart
Chesterfield's
Citizens National Bank
Coca-Cola
Cotton Blues
Craft Auto
Dickey's BBQ Pit
Economy Supply
The End Zone
The Express – Shuttle Service, Inc.
Fairway Financial Management
Fox's Pizza / Roso, Inc.
Gander Mountain
Garner Lumley Electric
Grand Bank
GranthamPoole
Half Shell Oyster House
Hederman Brothers
Joe Bryant Shelter Insurance
Keesler Federal Credit Union
Lamar County Board of Supervisors
Leaf River Sports
Liberty Mutual Insurance
Long Wholesale Distribution
Longhorn Steakhouse
Newk's
Parris Jewelers
Shell Finish Line
Shipley Do-Nuts
Smith Petroleum/ Dandy Dan's Texaco
Southern Beverage
Stokes Distributing
Stricks B-B-Q
Taylor Rental
The First
Trustmark Bank
Turner & Gladden Furniture World
Westside Studio

GANDER MTN. WE LIVE OUTDOORS · Parris Jewelers · Liberty Mutual · LONG Distribution · CAMPUS BOOK MART · HEDERMAN BROTHERS · Stricks B-B-Q WWW.STRICKSBBQ.COM

Shell Finish Line's Will Martens, center, and Hattiesburg Coca Cola's Russ Hendley, right, present Southern Miss Alumni Association Executive Director Jerry DeFatta, left, with a contribution to the organization's Pierce Legacy Scholarship Fund.

2015 GROSS TOURNAMENT WINNERS

1st: Larry Doleac, Ray Sims, Bobby Proctor, Gary Carmichael
2nd: Cory Bielstein, Curt Hebert, David Hurt, Lance Reid
3rd: Will Martens, Kevin Brewer, Bobby Maddox, Bryan Kelly

2015 NET TOURNAMENT WINNERS

1st: Chris Leonard, Alan Blakeney, Sam Sackler, Murray Brinson
2nd: Matthew Bennett, Joshua Sick, Brandon Bailey, Corbin Blaize
3rd: Grant Hartfield, Dwain Strickland, Dave Herrin, Brad Baker

Students Participate in Official Ring Ceremony

On Nov. 17, 2015, nearly 50 University of Southern Mississippi students continued the University's long-standing tradition of receiving an Official Ring.

The Southern Miss class ring serves as reminder that everywhere you go, Southern Miss will go with you and is a great way of showing the world that you are part of the history of Southern Miss.

This year students and their families had the honor of hearing from alumnus Jim Coll, the University's chief communications officer, who spoke about the significance of the Official Ring. "The Official Ring that you now wear, is a symbol of accomplishment," said Coll. "As a student, you've been rigorously tested and asked to complete assignments of great difficulty. You have been required to reach certain academic standards, and today you are on your way to a successful completion of your degree. It is an accomplishment worth celebrating and a sign of your future commitment to your alma mater."

Official Ring recipients were also able to interact with Rodney D. Bennett, University president, who presented each student with his or her ring and a surprise appearance by Seymour allowed for candid photos with everyone's favorite mascot.

CALLING ALL GOLDEN EAGLES WHO RESIDE IN TEXAS AND BLEED BLACK AND GOLD!

The official University of Southern Mississippi Texas license plate has been approved for release! Pre-order your specialty Texas license plate today by visiting the link below.

Spread the word to those in Texas and share this information with your Golden Eagle friends! Note: Southern Miss is required to secure 200 pre-orders in order to move this specialty plate to production.

For more information, contact BayLee Long at BayLee.Long@usm.edu or call 601.266.5357.

Deadline to pre-order is February 1, 2016

MyPlates.com/ComingSoon

Ruhnke Named Assistant Director for Communications

Nicole Ruhnke

Nicole Ruhnke has accepted the position of assistant director for communications at The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association.

Ruhnke, a Petal native, was employed with Baptist Medical and Dental Mission International (BMDMI) as the director of communication prior to joining the Alumni Association. In this role, she managed all communications and marketing efforts for the organization, including event coordination and promotion, donor relations and the production and distribution of missionary support materials.

Prior to her time with BMDMI, Ruhnke was the communication manager for Hattiesburg Convention and Tourism Commissions where she managed promotions and media relations for all Hattiesburg Convention Commission and VISITHATTIESBURG facilities and events, among numerous other tasks.

In her role with the Alumni Association, Ruhnke's primary responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, overseeing the production of *The Talon*, the Alumni Association's quarterly award-winning magazine, administering the Alumni Association website located at SouthernMissAlumni.com and coordinating promotion of all Alumni Association activities.

"I am so honored to join the Alumni Association and be a part of such a dynamic team of professionals," shared Ruhnke, who graduated from Southern Miss in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in journalism with an emphasis in public relations. "My time at Southern Miss as a student was marked by the University's standard of excellence, which has become a pillar in my professional development. As a member of the Alumni Association staff, I look forward to continued growth while reinvesting in the University that provided me with such a strong foundation."

"Nicole's knowledge of communications and experience in the public relations field is precisely what we were searching for when this position became available," shared Executive Director Jerry DeFatta. "The growth and development of our communication efforts over the last few years is one of the many things I've been excited about within the organization. I am confident Nicole will excel in this role and take the Alumni Association's communication efforts to an entirely new level."

GO
Find the right scholarship for YOU!

THE USM FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION SYSTEM

At The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation, we recognize the importance of earning a quality education without accruing the heavy burden of student loan debt. That's why we are dedicated to helping students at Southern Miss achieve their academic goals regardless of their financial limitations.

Through the online **USM Foundation Scholarship Application System**, students who are currently enrolled or accepted for admission for the 2016-17 academic year can explore available scholarship opportunities, complete the general application, and be matched with scholarships for which they qualify. Eligibility for ***more than 850 privately funded scholarships*** administered by the USM Foundation depends on a variety of criteria. While some require a certain grade point average, others are awarded based on major, student involvement and even hometown.

To explore available scholarship opportunities, visit USMFOUNDATION.COM/GO.

USM FOUNDATION

AA/EOE/ADAI UC 73648.5210 11.15

Retired Southern Miss Professor Richard L. Conville, second from right, and his wife, Mozella, second from left, are pictured with Chad Driskell, left, Vice President for External Affairs, and Christy Arrazattee, Director of the Center for Community and Civic Engagement.

Retired USM Professor, Wife Make Transformational Gift to USM Foundation

A profound appreciation for community service inspired former University of Southern Mississippi Professor Richard Conville and his wife, Mozella, to make a $100,000 gift to the USM Foundation for discretionary support of programs associated with the University's Center for Community and Civic Engagement (CCCE).

USM Foundation and CCCE representatives made the announcement of the Richard L. Conville and Mozella P. Conville Center for Community and Civic Engagement Fund for Excellence during a ceremony held Friday, Oct. 23 at the R.C. Cook Union Building on the Hattiesburg campus.

"The Convilles have already done so much, locally and statewide, to promote community engagement, and they have already made a huge, lasting impact on Southern Miss and this area," said CCCE Director Christy Arrazattee. "For years, Dr. Conville has championed service-learning and in doing so, changed the lives of many students and faculty. This gift will allow us to build even further upon his good work."

Richard Conville retired in 2013 after 35 years of service at Southern Miss where he served as chair of the Department of Communication Studies. He views the endowment as an opportunity to give something back to a University that provided so many opportunities for his family.

"We saw that University funding was limited," said Dr. Conville. "We saw the potential of the Center to contribute to the lives of our students, and we saw the margin of excellence that private gifts can provide University programs."

Conville was hired in 1978 and became the first full-time chair of the Department of Communication Studies. While charting the course for the department's growth and role at the University, he led the development of curriculum as well as the hiring of the first five faculty members.

During his time at Southern Miss, Conville was actively involved on and off campus. He served as president of the Faculty Senate and chair of the Research Council, and as a member of the Academic Council. He also was chair of the Masters Facility Planning Committee and received the "Service Learning Faculty Innovation Award" from the Office of Community Service Learning. He was the Hattiesburg Junior Auxiliary's 2012 recipient of the Humanitarian of the Year award, and he was appointed by Governor Haley Barbour to serve on the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service from 2011-2014.

Dr. Conville notes that the CCCE's efforts extend far beyond the campus, providing numerous volunteer opportunities through the Hattiesburg area.

"The Center connects students with the community as volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, the Heart Walk and Relay for Life, and helps them engage in service-learning projects with organizations such as the Edwards Street Fellowship Center and Aldersgate Mission," he said. "Such experiences help meet the University's mission – in the words of Ernest Boyer: 'Not only to prepare students for productive careers, but also to enable them to live lives of dignity and purpose; not only to generate new knowledge, but to channel that knowledge to humane ends; not merely to student government, but to help shape a citizenry that can promote the public good.' "

Arrazattee points out that funds from the gift will be used to support the Center's efforts to provide students and faculty with experiences that will enhance their ability to learn and teach through community service.

"Through the Convilles' generosity, we have a lot of flexibility to use these funds to support everything from student service projects to educational opportunities for faculty and staff," said Arrazattee.

New Chief Financial Officer Appointed for USM Foundation

Leslee Smith was recently named as chief financial officer and associate director for finance of The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation.

Smith has spent four years as controller and manager of financial services at the Foundation. Prior to joining the Foundation staff, she spent nearly nine years as an accountant with McArthur, Thames, Slay and Dews, PLLC in Hattiesburg.

"I am honored to be named as the USM Foundation's chief financial officer and associate director for finance," said Smith. "I have thoroughly enjoyed working at the Foundation and I look forward to taking part in our growth and development toward our mission to support the University for many years to come."

Responsibilities of the chief financial officer include overseeing the accounting system and all financial data for the Foundation, serving as staff liaison for the Investment and Finance Committees of the Foundation Board of Directors, and preparing and monitoring the annual operating budget.

"Leslee is a bright star in our organization with a positive attitude and an incredible work ethic. She is always willing and able to assist our donors and colleagues at USM," said Stace Mercier, executive director of the USM Foundation. "I am thrilled that Leslee is our new chief financial officer. She is very deserving of this promotion."

Smith earned her bachelor of science in business administration with majors in both accounting and business administration from Southern Miss in 2002, and continued on to earn her CPA license from the State of Mississippi in 2003. She became a certified nonprofit accounting professional in 2013 and is an active member of the American Institute of CPAs, the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Southeast Chapter of the Mississippi Society of CPAs.

Memorial Scholarship Established to Help Student-Veterans at Southern Miss

The legacy of Herbert Johnston's lifetime of service to his country will live on through an endowed scholarship established with The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation by his widow Anna Mae McNeece Johnston of Benton, Miss. and family. The Henry "Herbert" Johnston Veterans Scholarship Endowment will provide a scholarship to a student in any major who is a veteran or is a spouse or child of a veteran, with preference given to an Air Force veteran.

Eager to begin helping students at Southern Miss, Anna Mae made a current gift to endow the fund, complimented by a gift annuity, which upon her passing will provide additional funding for the scholarship.

Henry "Herbert" Johnston spent more than two decades serving his country as a member of the United States Air Force. While stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas, Johnston enrolled at The University of Southern Mississippi through the Air Force Bootstrap Program. The program, which has since been replaced by The Air Force Educational Leave of Absence Program, allows Air Force members to attend an accredited school full-time to earn a degree while remaining on active duty with the agreement that the active duty commitment will be extended.

Herbert earned two degrees from Southern Miss–a bachelor's in industrial engineering technology in 1971 and a master's in vocational technology education in 1972.

After serving his country for more than two decades as a master sergeant and recruiter, Herbert went on to teach diversified technology for 18 years at Yazoo City High School before retiring in 1990. He was an active member of Benton

Henry "Herbert" Johnston

Baptist Church, leading Sunday school classes and spearheading group trips.

Anna Mae says that the educational opportunities provided to Herbert were vital to his future in the Air Force and beyond.

"Herbert wouldn't have been able to do half of what he did if it hadn't been for the opportunities that the Air Force gave him," she said. "We want to help someone else who may need support while they are pursuing an education at Southern Miss."

In recent years, Southern Miss has placed a greater emphasis on providing student-veterans with the support they need to excel in the classroom and succeed in civilian life through the Center for Military Veterans, Service Members and Families. As one of the top educational institutions in the country working to ensure the success of America's military service members, veterans and spouses, Southern Miss is proud to have been named a Purple Heart Institution by the Military Order of the Purple Heart and a 2015 Top University by Military Advanced Education, as well as designated a 2015 Military Friendly® School. The Center has also instituted a partnership with the Marine Corps Leadership Scholar Program and was instrumental in recently establishing a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program on the University's Gulf Park Campus.

"Military Service members and their families have made life-changing sacrifices to protect our freedom and way of life," said Maj. General (Retired) Jeff Hammond, director of the Center. "It is our honor and duty to provide them the best in care and support as they pursue their respective career goals at our University."

The Center sponsors a "military-friendly" education support program that provides veterans, service members, family members and survivors the opportunity to pursue a degree at Southern Miss. Currently, more than 1,200 veterans and family members are enrolled in the University, and the Center provides them a comfortable learning environment with ample meeting space, a computer lab and student lounge.

Scholarships for student-veterans–like the one established by Anna Mae–help affirm the University's commitment to serving those who serve others.

"Through generous contributions of caring Southern Miss alumni and friends, the Center administers 12 scholarships to assist veterans and family members with funding their education," said Hammond. "As we continue to expand our scholarship program, we are most grateful to Mrs. Johnston and her family for their willingness to make a difference for our students."

Visit usm.edu/military-veterans for more information on the Center, or usmfoundation.com/veterans to make a gift to support the Center.

GOLDEN EAGLE IMPACT

LES AND ROSEMARY AULTMAN of Clinton, Miss. made a gift commitment of $15,000 to establish the Lester and Rosemary Aultman Scholarship Endowment, which will provide scholarship support for students from Clinton High School.

LEE AND BRENDA BAUMANN of Birmingham, Ala. made a gift commitment of $50,000 to enhance the God at the Speed of Light Scholarship, which provides scholarships to deserving students of the College of Science and Technology who demonstrate financial need and are Mississippi natives.

LETTIE PATE WHITEHEAD FOUNDATION, INC. of Atlanta, Ga. made a gift of $70,000 to benefit the Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to female students majoring in nursing who are residents of nine southeastern states, including Mississippi. The organization honors the legacy of Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans, an extraordinary philanthropist and businesswoman who gave generously to educational institutions throughout her life.

Thanks to a generous grant from the C. E. AND S. FOUNDATION and an in-kind gift from DAVID AND MARY BETH MATHERS, original works by 20th century American illustrator Tasha Tudor are now a part of the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection and were on display at *Tasha Tudor: Around the Year,* an exhibit organized by the Norman Rockwell Museum of Stockbridge, Mass., and shown at Oddfellows Gallery in Hattiesburg, Miss. from October through December 2015 to commemorate Tasha Tudor's centenary.

Utilizing matching gift programs, MIKE NOWELL of The Nowell Agency, Inc. of Brandon, Miss. made a gift which grew to $102,500 to benefit the Osceola McCarty Endowed Scholarship, which provides scholarships to deserving students who display financial need with preference given to African-American students from the Hattiesburg and South Mississippi area.

ALLYSON EASTERWOOD, associate vice president for finance and university controller at Southern Miss, made a gift commitment of $15,000 to establish the Allyson Easterwood Accounting Scholarship.

A planned gift of life insurance totaling more than $20,000 from the ESTATE OF BENNIE A. ROHR of Moss Point, Miss. will benefit the Mrs. Eathel Virginia Rohr Memorial Nursing Scholarship Endowment and the Bennie A. Rohr GCRL Summer Field Program Scholarship Endowment, which provide scholarships to nursing students and biology students, respectively.

The FAVRE 4 HOPE FOUNDATION of Hattiesburg, Miss. made a gift of $10,000 to The Children's Center for Communication and Development to provide discretionary dollars to support the Center.

A gift totaling more than $18,200 from JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF HATTIESBURG to the DuBard School for Language Disorders will assist in purchasing iPads for the student library.

A gift of $20,000 from the SERTOMA CLUB OF HATTIESBURG to the DuBard School for Language Disorders will be used for the development and maintenance of the School.

MARLENE M. MILKENT of Hattiesburg, Miss. made a gift of $20,000 to establish the Amelia Milkent Memorial Elementary Education Scholarship Endowment in memory of her late mother. The endowment will provide scholarships to students in Elementary Education demonstrating financial need, with preference to non-traditional students. Marlene is a retired faculty member from the College of Science and Technology.

SOUTHERN BONE AND JOINT SPECIALISTS, PA of Hattiesburg, Miss. made a gift of $10,000 to the Southern Miss Fund as a sponsor of the University's 50th anniversary of desegregation. The celebration, which was held September 2-6, included panel discussions on the Hattiesburg and Gulf Park campuses, special recognition of the University's first African-American students Gwendolyn Armstrong and Raylawni Branch, and a keynote speech by renowned author and journalist Soledad O'Brien.

A gift of stock from LARRY AND LINDA SMITH of Hattiesburg, Miss. will benefit the John B. Smith and Charles M. Smith Theater and Dance Endowment and the J. Larry and Linda B. Smith Music Scholarship Endowment, which provide financial support for students in the theatre and dance program, and also supports students majoring in piano, voice or an orchestral instrument, respectively.

A gift of $25,000 from the WAL-MART FOUNDATION of Bentonville, Ark. to the DuBard School for Language Disorders Fund will provide support for the enhancement and maintenance of the School.

Dr. Joe Paul, vice president emeritus for student affairs, and Tom Burke, interim vice president for student affairs, congratulate Sydnee Carter on being named the inaugural Doug McQueen Emerging Leader Scholar.

Honoring the Legacy of a Leader

A dedicated Southern Miss alumnus and longtime supporter of the University, the late Doug McQueen built a legacy of courage, integrity and friendship. He made an impact throughout his professional career as an educator, executive and consultant. To honor his lifetime of leadership, friends and associates of McQueen established the Doug McQueen Emerging Leader Scholarship Endowment with a gift to The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a rising sophomore or junior who has shown potential as an emerging campus leader.

On August 28, the inaugural Doug McQueen Emerging Leader Scholarship was awarded to Sydnee Carter, a junior elementary education major from Gulfport, Miss. As an emerging leader on campus, Carter volunteers as an English and Spanish tutor for the Student Athletic Enhancement Program and serves as the executive director of Freshman Associates, a branch of the Student Government Association designed to help develop leadership skills in freshmen.

"Receiving the Doug McQueen Emerging Leader Scholarship has been nothing short of a blessing," said Carter. "It means so much to me to not only be recognized for my hard work, but rewarded as well. I appreciate this University and the friends of Doug McQueen for giving me this opportunity to grow as a leader as I look forward to my last years here at The University of Southern Mississippi."

McQueen passed away on September 8 at his home in Oxford, Miss. Mike Neyman and Tom Burnham, longtime friends of McQueen, were fortunate enough to be able to visit him just days before his passing to share the news of the scholarship's establishment and its inaugural recipient.

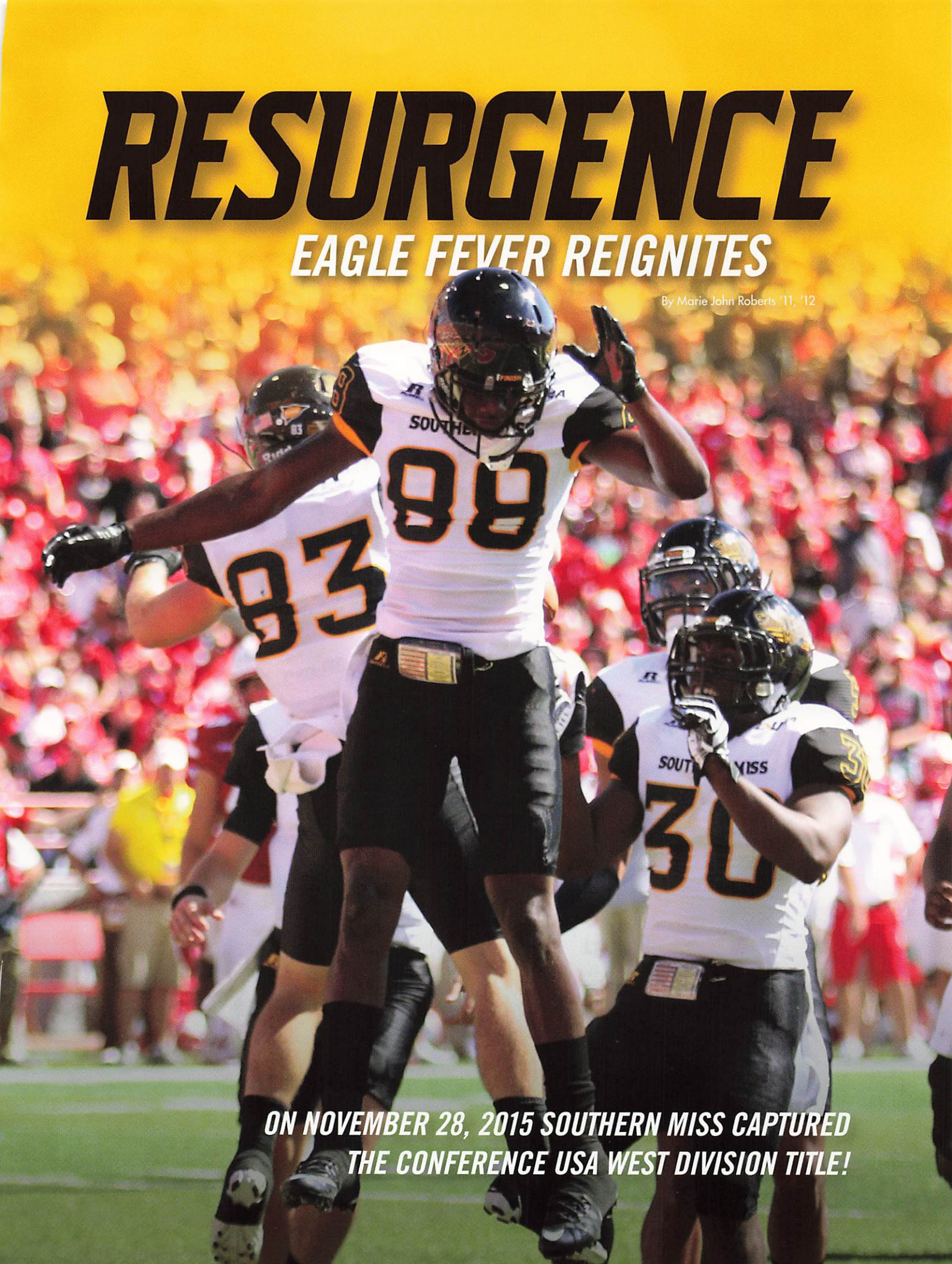
McQueen was an accomplished professional in organization and leadership development. In recent years, he served as an adjunct professor and consultant for leadership development at the University of Mississippi, while also working full time for Leadership Partners. Prior to his career in leadership training, McQueen devoted 18 years to educating young minds in Mississippi. He taught English at Ocean Springs High, Bay St. Louis High and Biloxi High; served as assistant principal at Nichols Junior High and as principal at Waveland Elementary and Beauvoir Elementary; and was the assistant superintendent of the Harrison County School System.

"This endowment will recognize and celebrate two important loves of Doug's life – nurturing and supporting others and uplifting The University of Southern Mississippi," said Neyman. "Doug's life has been a testimony of courage, integrity and friendship."

RESURGENCE

EAGLE FEVER REIGNITES

By Marie John Roberts '11, '12



ON NOVEMBER 28, 2015 SOUTHERN MISS CAPTURED THE CONFERENCE USA WEST DIVISION TITLE!

Coach Todd Monken

When trying to rebuild, there is a backward cycle of football fandom – the starting point is that you have to believe in your team's greatness just as a matter of faith. Then, you have to force yourself to see proof of success when it is not easily recognizable – a strong pass here, an aggressive tackle there.

You have to believe first and use that belief to push forward to see success later on the field.

For Southern Miss, you could say the last few years of Golden Eagle football could be characterized in a single word: resurgence.

Resurgence is typically a gradual process that consists of small stints of growth and development over a long period of time. It is not usually a quick transition to notable success. But let's face it; Southern Miss football is anything but typical.

Many years ago at Southern Miss when Bobby Collins was head coach during the late 1970s and early 1980s, and future M-Club Hall of Famers like Reggie Collier, Sammy Winder, Marvin "The Rock" Harvey, Hanford Dixon and The Nasty Bunch were competing for the Golden Eagles, the team and the fans began to chant at every game "I believe, I do believe, yes, I do believe."

They had confidence that whenever the Golden Eagles took to the football field that they were going to win. During that era, they climbed to as high as No. 8 in the United Press International poll in 1981, played in bowl games and captured wins over teams like Alabama, Florida State, Ole Miss and Mississippi State, just to name a few. There were bumper stickers, buttons, signs, banners and billboards that all read "I believe."

Looking back more recently, the 2012 team finished the season 0-12. The team battled injuries; battled heartbreak; and for the first time in years of Southern Miss football, battled failure.

In December of 2012, however, Todd Monken was introduced as the 20th head coach in Southern Miss history. The former offensive coordinator at Big 12 power Oklahoma State came to Hattiesburg with a desire to prove himself, a desire to win, and a desire to bring Southern Miss back to the top.

Fast forward three years and a few *Southern mem'ries we shall cherish* later – and Southern Miss entered fall camp with 20 seniors who displayed a confidence not seen since the 2011 season.

Energy was high. Hopes even higher. Hushed tones of confidence became louder predictions for success.

After a competitive loss in front of a sold-out stadium at home against Mississippi State (L, 34-16), the Golden Eagles posted an impressive 52-6 victory over Austin Peay. The team moved to above .500 for the first time in four years with a road win at Texas State (W, 56-50). Southern Miss then split the next two games, defeating North Texas (W, 49-14) before falling to Marshall (L, 31-10) on the road to move to 3-3, matching the previous year's win total.

From that point, the Golden Eagles came full circle, resurging from the ashes victorious, and giving Golden Eagle fans a reason to believe again.

A record crowd of Southern Miss fans cheered on the Golden Eagles at The Rock during the season-opener against Mississippi State on Sept. 5.

The Black and Gold posted a 32-10 victory over UTSA during Homecoming. They followed that performance with a 44-10 win at Charlotte. The momentum continued to roll into the bye week as Southern Miss notched a 34-13 victory on Halloween over UTEP. Following the bye, the Golden Eagles continued to soar, taking out Conference USA foe Rice, 65-10, in Houston.

A week after establishing a school record for passing yards in a game, the Golden Eagles turned to its ground game to overcome a 10-point, third quarter deficit to roll over Old Dominion 56-31 before a crowd of 29,568 at M.M. Roberts Stadium.

The squad enjoys its successes this year thanks to the improvement on both sides of the football, which shows the Golden Eagles ranked first in Conference USA in total defense and second in total offense. This combination gives the Golden Eagles their most wins in four seasons. The resurgence is made even sweeter with bowl eligibility, giving fans one more reason to revel in fandom.

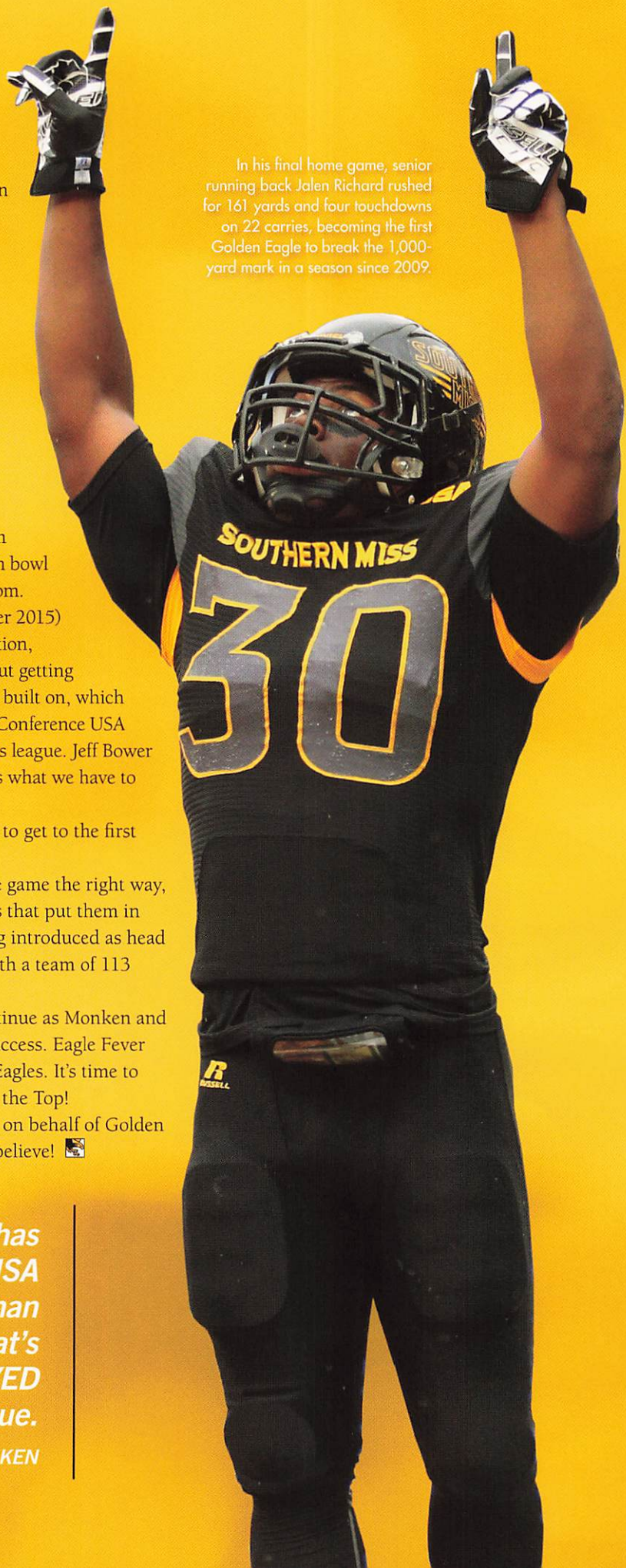
As stated in the *Hattiesburg American* (23 November 2015) Monken lays out the framework of this team's foundation, which is focused on creating a lasting legacy: "It's about getting yourself to where you feel like what this program was built on, which is always being a bowl team. This program has more Conference USA championships than anybody that's ever played in this league. Jeff Bower started that, and Larry (Fedora) continued that. That's what we have to live up to — that legacy and then building our own."

"Do our guys understand that? Yes. But you have to get to the first plateau," said Monken.

The current team has a reputation for playing the game the right way, having fun while doing it and focusing on the things that put them in position to win. Monken, now three years after being introduced as head coach, is viewed by many as a top offensive mind with a team of 113 players who trust in his leadership.

And for that cycle of football fandom? It will continue as Monken and the rest of the team build upon that foundation of success. Eagle Fever will reignite as fans join in to support their Golden Eagles. It's time to believe again. It's time to help take Southern Miss to the Top!

For the resurgence of Southern Miss football and on behalf of Golden Eagle fans everywhere, *Loyalty we pledge to thee*. We believe!



In his final home game, senior running back Jalen Richard rushed for 161 yards and four touchdowns on 22 carries, becoming the first Golden Eagle to break the 1,000-yard mark in a season since 2009.

This program has MORE Conference USA CHAMPIONSHIPS than anybody that's EVER PLAYED in this league.

—COACH TODD MONKEN

Commemorating History

CELEBRATING

50 Years of Desegregation

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
1965 - 2015

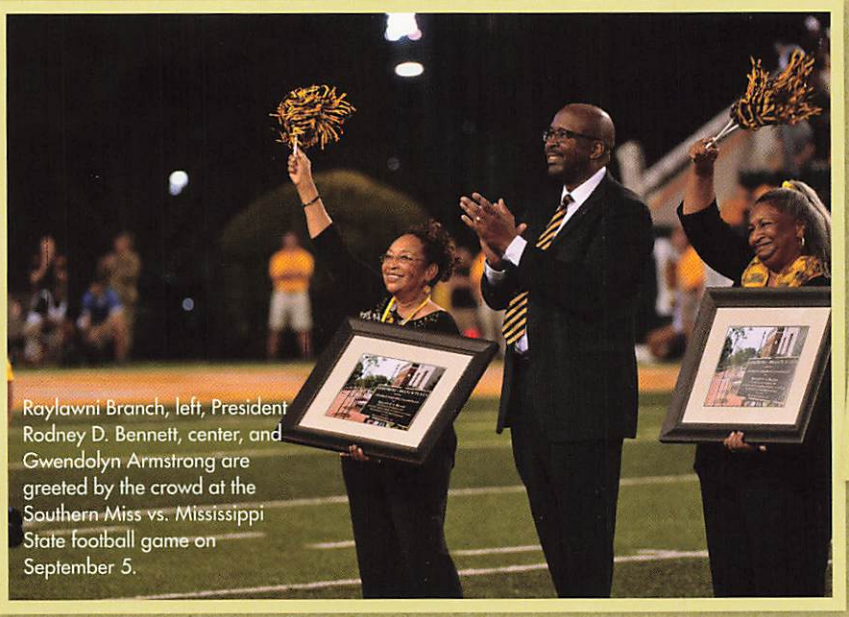
Fifty years ago, in September 1965, Raylawni Branch and Gwendolyn Elaine Armstrong made history when they enrolled at The University of Southern Mississippi as the institution's first African-American students. This past September, the University commemorated that milestone with a series of events titled "Celebrating 50 Years of Progress: Desegregation of The University of Southern Mississippi."

"For so many of us, it's hard to believe it's been 50 years since these two brave women stepped forward and changed forever the story, not only for USM and Mississippi, but of the country," said Dr. Rodney D. Bennett, the University's first African-American president. "I'm honored to be president of the University as we mark this occasion and pay tribute to a legacy deserving of our respect."

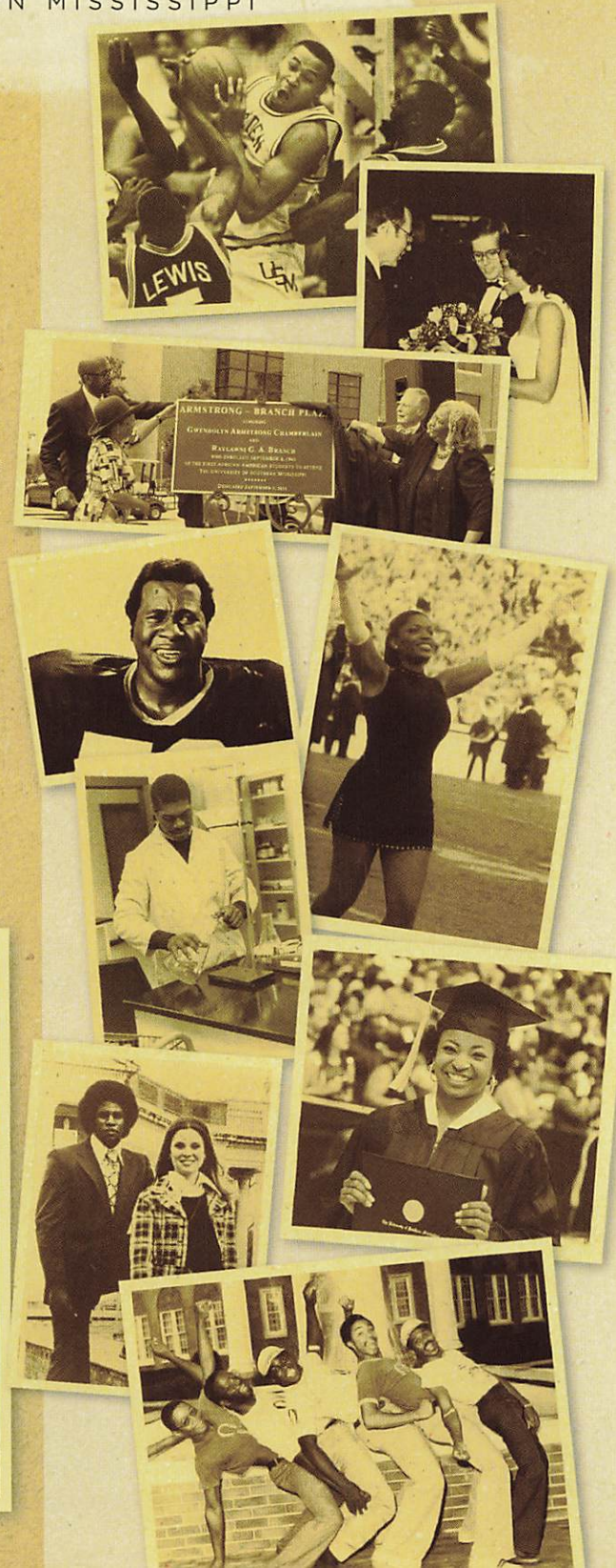
Dr. Alvin Williams, retired Southern Miss Alumni professor, and Jerry DeFatta, executive director of the Southern Miss Alumni Association, served as co-chairs of the steering committee that coordinated the desegregation anniversary programming held Sept. 2-6. With events ranging from panel discussions to an ecumenical prayer service, the week long celebration was headlined by a keynote address presented by Soledad O'Brien, CEO and founder of Starfish Media Group.

"The lineup of events allowed for reflection of the University's history and what we have learned from our history that will allow us to move forward in a positive and constructive way," said Williams.

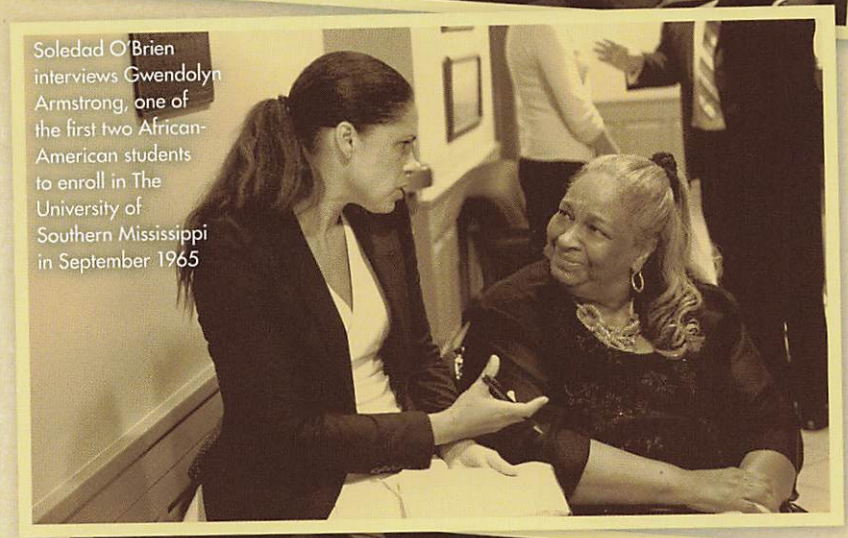
Soledad O'Brien, a former CNN news anchor and reporter, addressed an audience of nearly 500 at Bennett Auditorium on Sept. 4. Formerly the face



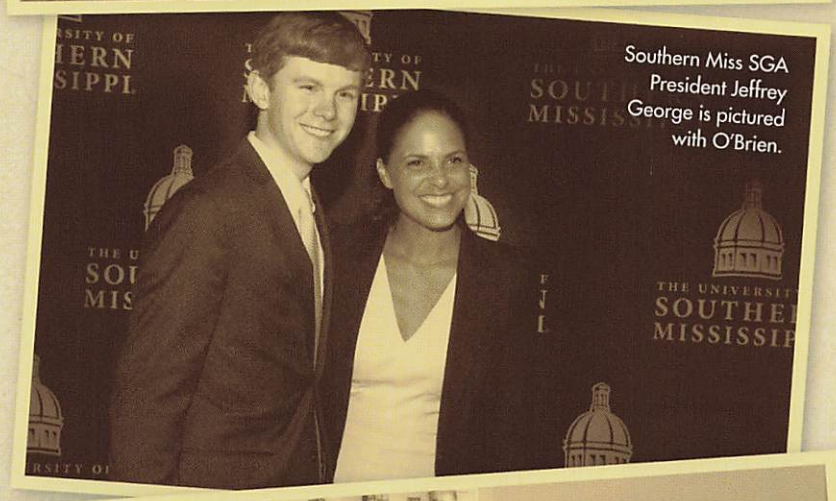
Raylawni Branch, left, President Rodney D. Bennett, center, and Gwendolyn Armstrong are greeted by the crowd at the Southern Miss vs. Mississippi State football game on September 5.



Soledad O'Brien speaks with Southern Miss students during her visit to campus as part of the 50 years of desegregation celebrations.



Soledad O'Brien interviews Gwendolyn Armstrong, one of the first two African-American students to enroll in The University of Southern Mississippi in September 1965



Southern Miss SGA President Jeffrey George is pictured with O'Brien.

From left, Tena Clark, CEO of DMI Music and Media Solutions, Raylawni Branch and Gwendolyn Armstrong smile with Soledad O'Brien following a reception hosted by the Southern Miss Alumni Association.

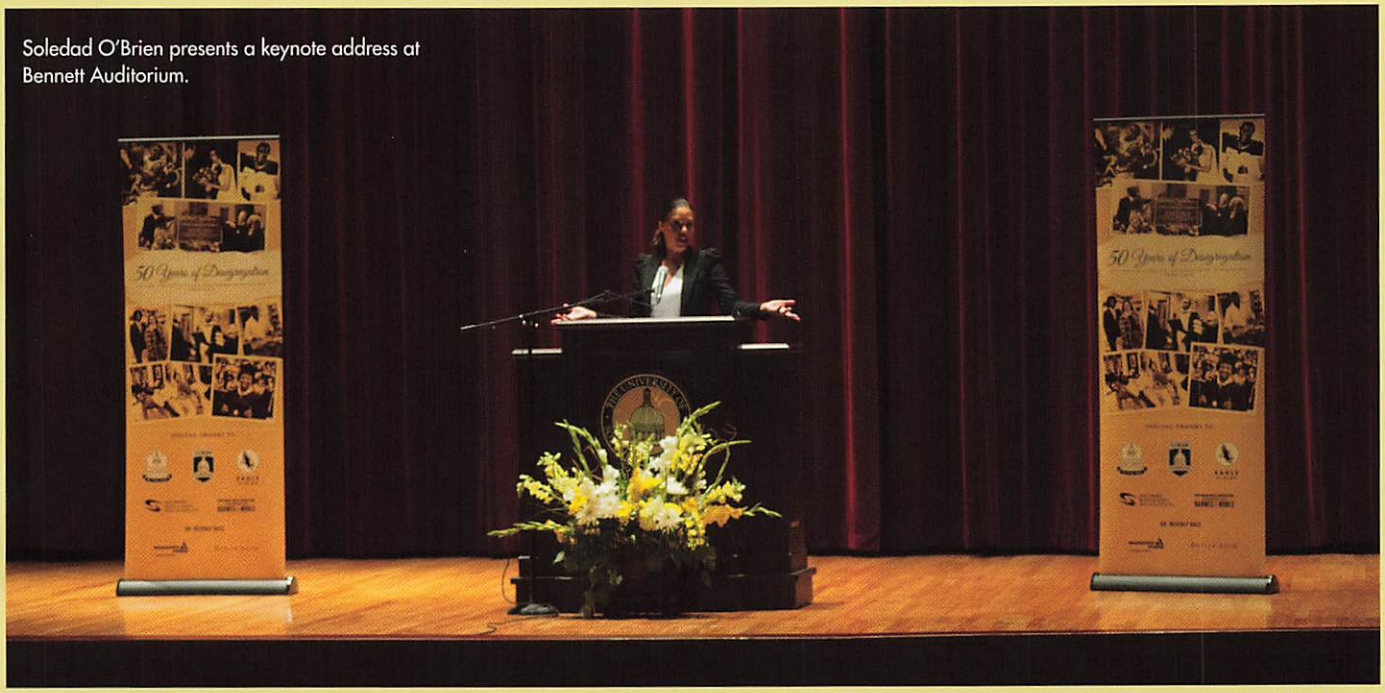
of CNN's popular *American Morning* program, O'Brien won a George Foster Peabody Award, along with the 24-hour news network, for its acclaimed reporting on Hurricane Katrina. She also covered the 2005 London terror attacks and the 2004 tsunami that hit South Asia. Additionally, O'Brien earned three Emmys for her coverage of the U.S. Presidential election and Haiti earthquake crisis.

Through CNN, O'Brien created and launched the award-winning documentary series *In America*, one of the network's most successful domestic and international franchises. She continues delivering its programming *Black in America* and *Latino in America* through Starfish Media Group, of which she is the founder and CEO. Through Starfish Media Group, O'Brien reports for HBO's *Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel* and also hosts the National Geographic Bee. Tena Clark '76, CEO of DMI Music & Media Solutions and a Southern Miss alumnus, is a close friend of O'Brien and was instrumental in securing the acclaimed journalist's visit to the University.

During her visit to Southern Miss for the desegregation celebrations, O'Brien offered affirming words to Branch and Armstrong. "I'm inspired to be here with you," she said during a dinner hosted by the Southern Miss Alumni Association. She continued by telling the ladies that what they did was not an act of personal gain, but about "doing something for other people, paving the way for other people."

As the historically all-white school's first African-American students, Branch and Armstrong blazed a trail for others to follow and left a legacy at a University that today celebrates its diversity. At the height of the civil rights movement in America, their integration of Southern Miss went off peacefully, though their presence on the Hattiesburg campus was not welcomed by those who resisted integration.

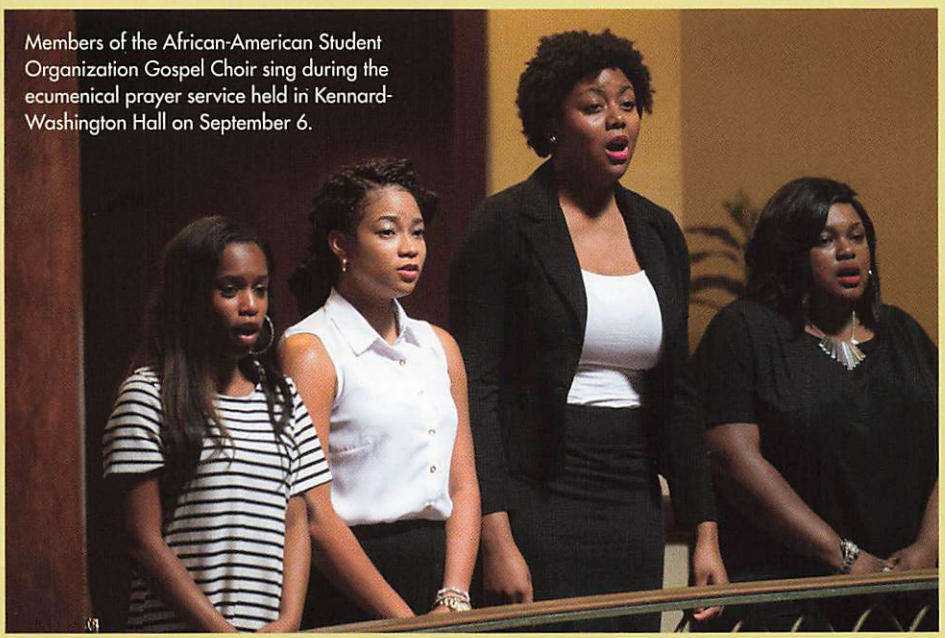
Branch said that while much has been achieved at USM and across the country with respect to race relations, vigilance must be maintained to prevent a decline in that progress. "I say to students to get involved, stay involved, get into diverse study groups, and if there is something wrong, bring attention to it and be the change you want to see," Branch said. "One cannot change things from the outside."



Soledad O'Brien presents a keynote address at Bennett Auditorium.

Armstrong said she marvels at the progress of the University, not only in the advancement of diversity among its student population, faculty and staff, but in its stature as a premier institution of higher learning. "It makes me so happy that so much is happening here, not just for people of color, but for everyone."

Southern Miss Student Government Association President Jeffrey George attended the events featuring O'Brien. "I really enjoyed getting to hear Soledad O'Brian speak, not only during her keynote address, but also during the Q&A session that she did with students earlier in the day," George said. "Hearing of her experiences as a female minority journalist and reporter still having to fight against inequalities really put things into perspective for me. My biggest takeaway from her visit is that we must continue to have the important conversations on our campuses as students, faculty, staff and administrators about what we can do better as a community to help Southern Miss create the most welcoming environment possible."



Members of the African-American Student Organization Gospel Choir sing during the ecumenical prayer service held in Kennard-Washington Hall on September 6.

"IT MAKES ME SO HAPPY THAT SO MUCH IS HAPPENING HERE, NOT JUST FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR, *but for everyone.*"

—GWENDOLYN ARMSTRONG

Gwendolyn Armstrong and Raylawni Branch speak at the prayer service.

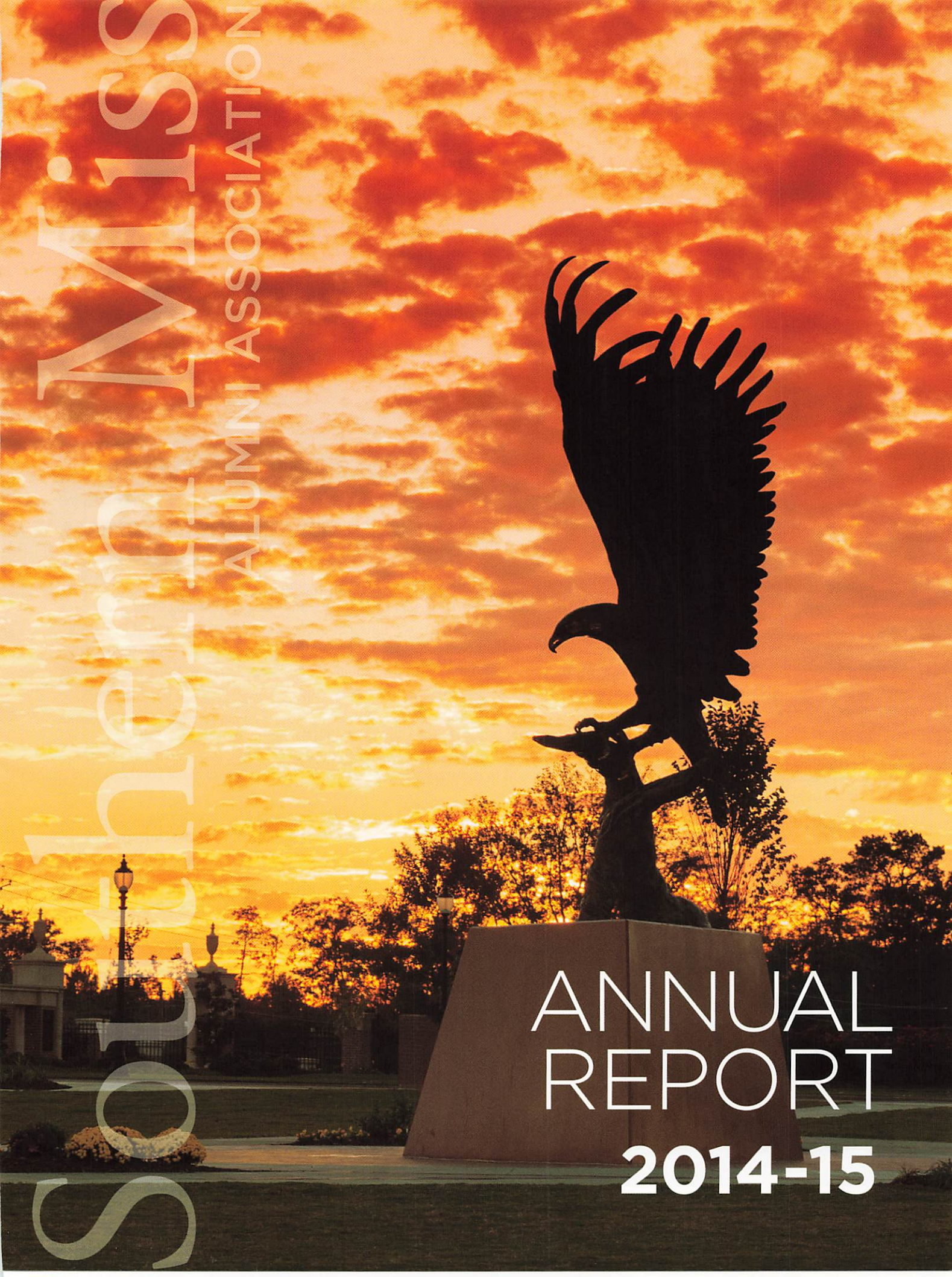
During the week's celebrations, Branch and Armstrong were greeted as two of the University's most celebrated alumni, with a slate of activities that marked their brave and historic act of defiance. In addition to the keynote address presented by O'Brien, the event's steering committee also coordinated panel discussions on both the Hattiesburg and Gulf Park campuses. Panelists included Dr. John Kelly, Allytra Perryman, Dr. Pat Smith, Dr. Anthony Harris, Judge Deborah Gambrell-Chambers, Dr. Riva Brown and Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas. Dr. Chester "Bo" Morgan, who serves as the University's historian, moderated both discussions, which centered on the history of the University from its desegregation to today. And on Sunday, Sept. 6, a prayer service was held in Kennard-Washington Hall on the Hattiesburg campus.

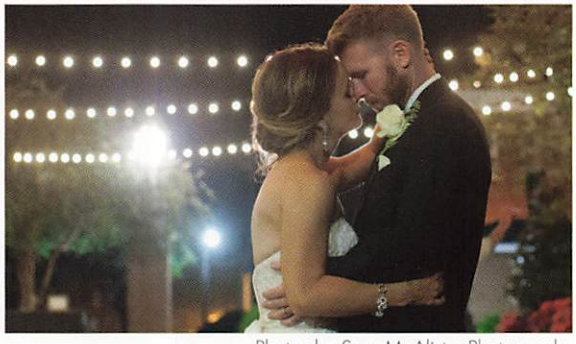
"Having the opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of desegregation was an important reminder for our students of how far our University and community have come in such a short amount of time," George added. "It was great to see students getting to discuss what times were like in 1965 with people who actually experienced life on campus then, and also discuss the ways in which we can continue to improve the environment on our campuses now."

> "*Be the change* YOU WANT TO SEE. ONE CANNOT CHANGE THINGS FROM THE OUTSIDE."
>
> —RAYLAWNI BRANCH

"The celebration of the 50th anniversary of desegregation was an incredible opportunity to honor two women who courageously integrated The University of Southern Mississippi on September 6, 1965," shared DeFatta. "I am honored to have been chosen to serve alongside Dr. Alvin Williams as co-chair of this important initiative and am grateful for the members of the University community who contributed their time and efforts by serving on the celebration steering committee."

In addition to Williams and DeFatta, the steering committee was comprised of 17 University and community leaders who each contributed to the commemoration events. "For more than a year, this group of dedicated individuals worked to develop a celebration that would not only serve as a fitting commemoration of this important milestone in our University's history, but also illustrate the significant changes that have taken place at our institution over the past 50 years," DeFatta said. "Additionally, I am thankful for the opportunity I was afforded to visit with Raylawni Branch and Gwendolyn Armstrong, as it provided me with an opportunity to learn about their experiences at Southern Miss and how those experiences shaped their lives."


Southern Miss
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL
REPORT
2014-15



Photos by Sam McAlister Photography

OGLETREE HOUSE BECOMES PRIME EVENT VENUE

The Ogletree House is one of the most iconic buildings on the University's Hattiesburg campus. Home to the Southern Miss Alumni Association, the building has undergone two major renovations in the last several years – including an extensive restoration and expansion project that was completed in 2009, and an additional restoration project following the EF-4 tornado that blew through Hattiesburg in 2013.

With its convenient location, historic charm and modern technology, the Ogletree House also serves as a prime event venue for the University and Hattiesburg community. In 2015, nearly 40 events were held in the Ogletree House by renters outside of the University community, with an additional 90 events held by various campus departments, such as Southern Miss Athletics, the USM Foundation and various student organizations.

Originally built as the president's home for Mississippi Normal College, the Ogletree House opened in 1912 and served as the home for the first five presidents of the institution until 1975 when it then became the home of the Southern Miss Alumni Association.

"The Ogletree House is a great space for events such as weddings, wedding receptions, private parties, business meetings and dinners, and even book signings," said BayLee Long, manager of programs for the Alumni Association. "We encourage members of the Alumni Association, as well as anyone in the Hattiesburg community, to utilize the Ogletree House, which guarantees a unique setting for their next event."

Additional information on room availability, rates and rental procedures can be found online or by calling BayLee Long at 601.266.5013. A benefit of membership, active members of the Alumni Association are eligible for select rental discounts.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS MORE THAN $30,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, the Southern Miss Alumni Association awards financial assistance to deserving students through the organization's scholarship programs. In 2015, the Alumni Association gave more than $30,000 in scholarship dollars as a result of the financial support raised through various events and campaigns.

In addition to the annual Homecoming Golf Tournament and the Legacy brick campaign, which fund the Pierce Legacy Scholarships, Southern Miss alumni chapters and constituent societies also contribute to securing funds for annual scholarships. In many cases, these scholarships play an important role in students' decisions to choose Southern Miss for their college education.

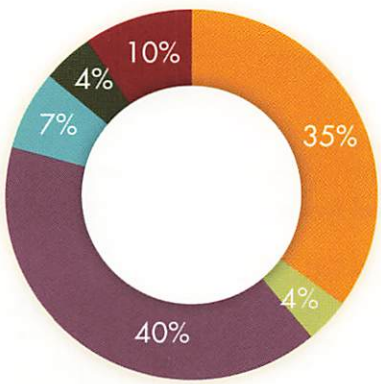
"My mom is a Life Member of the Southern Miss Alumni Association," said Dean Weaver, a Pierce Legacy Scholar. "This scholarship is what allowed me to go to school here cost-effectively."

"I would like to say 'thank you' to the donors who make these scholarships possible," said Lizzy Rhett, recipient of a Mary Loraine Peets Buffett Scholarship. "Receiving these funds four years in a row has been such a blessing to my family and me. I cannot say 'thank you' enough for what the donors have done and how much they believe in me and trust me with this scholarship."

Eleven incoming freshmen were awarded scholarships from the Robert D. Pierce II Legacy Scholarship Endowment during the annual Alumni Association Scholarship Reception. These students are children or grandchildren of active members of the Southern Miss Alumni Association. Recipients of the 2015 Pierce Legacy Scholarships are pictured from left to right. Front row: Owen Draughn, Amanda Pridgen, Caroline Carney and Brett Valentine. Middle row: Michael Callahan, Tristen Miller, Avery Russell, Kyle Cruce and Benjamin Ficken. Top row: Dean Weaver and Anna Marshall.

The Legacy, which serves as the student alumni association, offers a number of scholarships each year to Southern Miss students. Recipients of the 2015 scholarships were Melody Hill, Autumn Sobel, Kayla Hubbard, Aaliyah Cole, Aliscia Burkett, Nick Fountain, Raina Parker and Bradley Floore (not pictured).

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND AWARD DISTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN

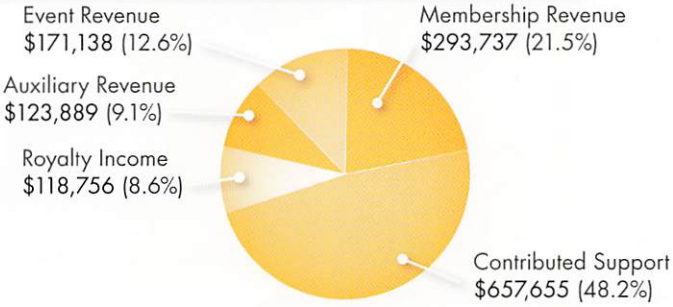


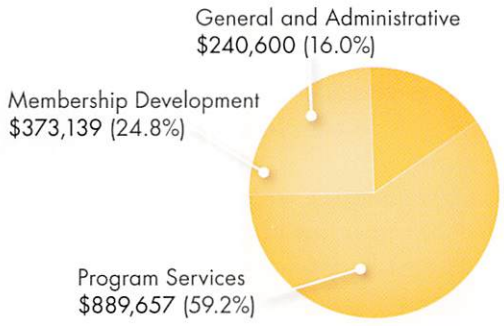
The **PIERCE LEGACY FUND SCHOLARSHIP** (awarded to 11)	$11,000
The **ELMO LANG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** (awarded to one)	$1,174
The **MARY LORAINE PEETS BUFFETT SCHOLARSHIP** (awarded to two)	$12,548
The **POWELL AND FRANCES OGLETREE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP** (awarded to one)	$2,206
The **PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP** (awarded to two)	$1,330
The **CLYDE KENNARD MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP** (awarded to five)	$2,935

TOTAL $31,193

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 AND 2016

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015



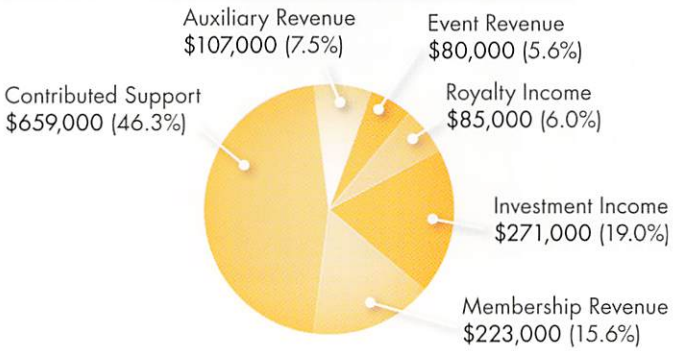


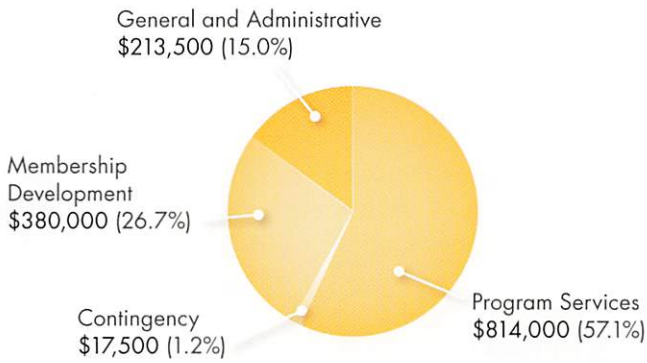
TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

	$ 1,365,173
Investment returns	$ 64,454
	$ 1,429,627

TOTAL EXPENSES
$1,503,396

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2015-16





TOTAL INCOME AND OTHER SUPPORT
$1,425,000

TOTAL EXPENSES
$1,425,000

ABOUT THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Mississippi in 1955 by then Executive Secretary Powell G. Ogletree. As of June 30, 2015, the conclusion of the 2014-15 Fiscal Year, the Alumni Association reported total assets of $3,332,048 and a total membership of 13,670. The 13,670 members represent 11.8 percent of the University's 115,988 alumni-of-record.

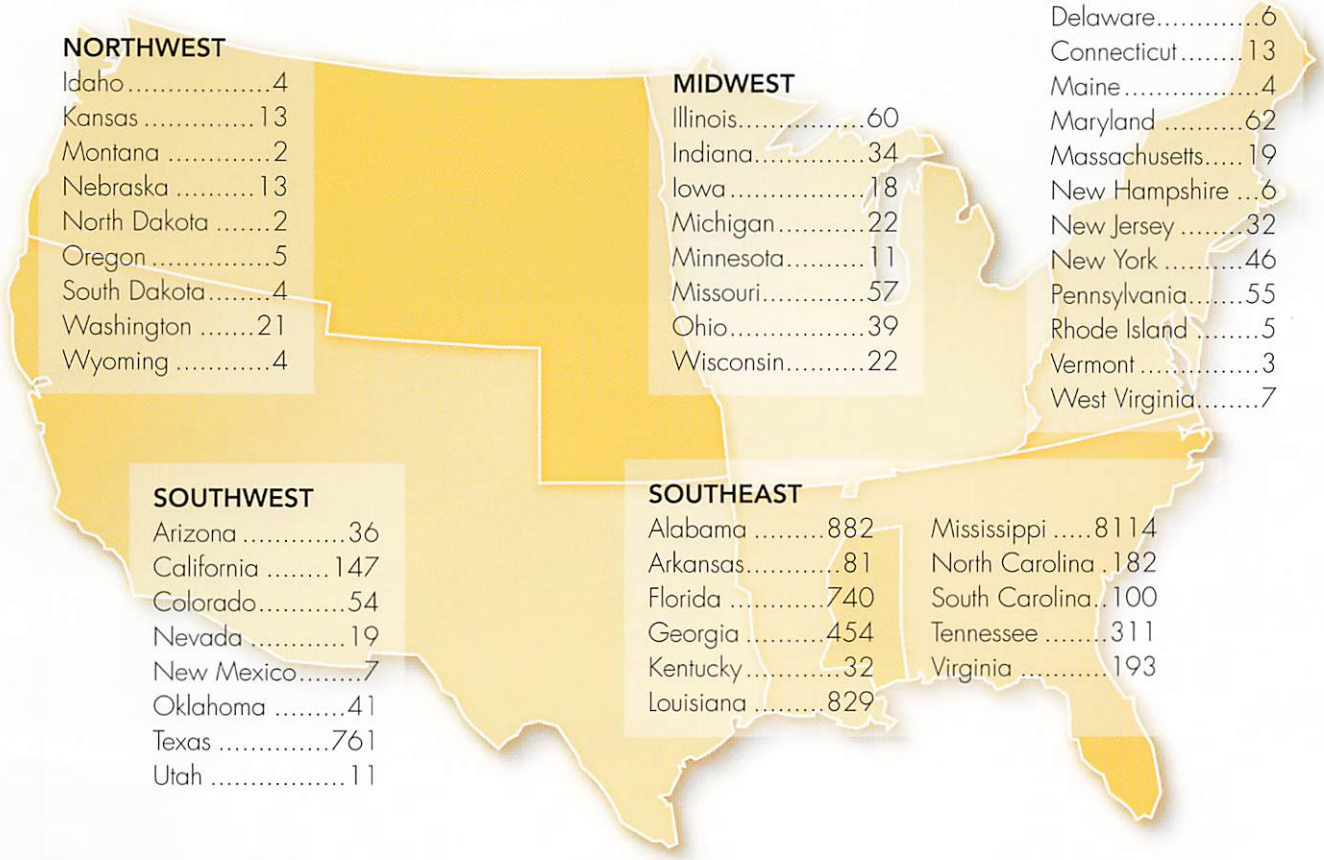
ASSETS

Current Assets	$ 445,813
Investments	$2,827,122
Total Property and Equipment	$ 59,113
Total Assets	**$ 3,332,048**

LIABILITIES

Total Current Liabilities	$ 128,831
Noncurrent Liabilities (DEFERRED REVENUE)	$ 55,161
Total Net Assets	$3,148,056
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	**$3,332,048**

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND ACROSS THE GLOBE



NORTHWEST
Idaho.....4
Kansas.....13
Montana.....2
Nebraska.....13
North Dakota.....2
Oregon.....5
South Dakota.....4
Washington.....21
Wyoming.....4

MIDWEST
Illinois.....60
Indiana.....34
Iowa.....18
Michigan.....22
Minnesota.....11
Missouri.....57
Ohio.....39
Wisconsin.....22

NORTHEAST
D.C.....13
Delaware.....6
Connecticut.....13
Maine.....4
Maryland.....62
Massachusetts.....19
New Hampshire...6
New Jersey.....32
New York.....46
Pennsylvania.....55
Rhode Island.....5
Vermont.....3
West Virginia.....7

SOUTHWEST
Arizona.....36
California.....147
Colorado.....54
Nevada.....19
New Mexico.....7
Oklahoma.....41
Texas.....761
Utah.....11

SOUTHEAST
Alabama.....882
Arkansas.....81
Florida.....740
Georgia.....454
Kentucky.....32
Louisiana.....829
Mississippi.....8114
North Carolina.182
South Carolina..100
Tennessee.....311
Virginia.....193

Alaska.....8

Hawaii.....10

Outside U.S. 56

The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association is comprised of members from all 50 states and numerous countries outside of the United States. Its 13,670 members are residents of the states above.

ANNUAL REPORT NUMBERS

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

Alumni of Record	115,988
Total Membership	13,670
% Active	11.8%

ACTIVE YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

0-4	2,502
5-9	1,398
10-14	953
15-19	729
20-24	557
25+	2,122
Life Members	5,409
TOTAL	**13,670**

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

118 College Drive #5013
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39406-5013
Phone: 601.266.5013 | Fax: 601.266.4214
southernmissalumni.com | alumni@usm.edu

MAKE YOUR GOLDEN EAGLE PRIDE PORTABLE

with a Southern Miss® Debit Card!

Make your pride portable with a Southern Miss® BancorpSouth MasterCard® Debit Card.[1] As a Golden Eagles® fan, you can enjoy everything you love about your relationship with BancorpSouth and show your support for your school by carrying this impressive piece of USM® pride.

For more information, talk to a BancorpSouth Customer Service Representative or go online at:
BancorpSouth.com/SouthernMiss

BancorpSouth®
Member FDIC
Right Where You Are®

1) The University of Southern Mississippi® affinity debit card has a $5.00 annual fee.

BANCORPSOUTH.COM/SOUTHERNMISS

received my letter of acceptance," she said as she smiled. Bullock plans to graduate with a bachelor's degree in psychology in December and begin graduate school at the University of South Alabama in January. Her ultimate goal is to receive a doctorate in nursing and clinically practice as a family nurse practitioner.

Stadthagen-Gonzalez said Bullock's research project allowed her to apply concepts and skills she learned in her psychology classes into her investigation of a real-world issue. "She came up with a tractable question that was personally relevant to her, and she planned and executed a well-thought-out research program. She will soon start analyzing her results and has the intention to publish her findings," Stadthagen-Gonzalez said. "She has, by definition, become a scientist, and that is the greatest benefit of this exercise."

Psychology professor Hans Stadthagen-Gonzalez, left, has known Bullock since she began taking classes at Southern Miss. Bullock then recruited Dr. Michael Mong, an associate professor in the University's Psychology Department, to complete the research team.

The mission of the Center of Undergraduate Research, which was established in 2011, is to enhance the undergraduate experience through encouraging and facilitating student-faculty cooperation on research and creative projects. It also provides skill-developing workshops and support for conference travel. Through conducting independent research, students grow academically, professionally and personally through the program. They are also able to cultivate their academic skills, gain self-confidence, network in a professional setting, and experiment with career options.

Gordon Cannon, vice president for research at Southern Miss, believes that CUR enables faculty and students to continue the legacy of research at Southern Miss. "Since I have been a part of the University faculty, there has always been a strong tradition of undergraduate students participating in scholarship and research with their faculty. However, faculty members oftentimes must apply for grants to support their scholarship, and their decision to take on an undergraduate student really depends on the financial support for that role. Thankfully, the Eagle SPUR grants now serve that purpose."

The CUR administration is comprised of 12 faculty members who represent all of the University's colleges. Dr. Marie Danforth serves as the chair of the Center's Steering Committee and is a professor of anthropology at the University, and JoAnn Johnson serves as the administrative support for the organization. Both women contribute to the overwhelming success of CUR. "Without their relentless efforts in promoting, implementing, administering and improving the Eagle SPUR program, none of it would be possible," said Stadthagen-Gonzalez.

The University encourages faculty who are interested in working with students through CUR to become faculty affiliates. Currently, more than 160 faculty members at Southern Miss serve as affiliates. The College of Education and Psychology at Southern Miss has the highest percentage of faculty affiliates at the University with one-third of the faculty members serving with CUR. Additionally, the Psychology department has produced 12 Eagle Scholars over the past two years.

Dr. Ann Blackwell, dean of the College of Education and Psychology, said, "The success of undergraduate research in the College of Education and Psychology is a testimony to the quality of our academic programs and the expertise and engagement of our faculty."

CUR also provides an avenue for students like Sheila Bullock who are interested in research or creative projects to connect with faculty affiliates while offering an opportunity to apply for research funding. During the last two years, CUR has provided more than $70,000 in funding to Southern Miss students participating in undergraduate research. To make a gift to the Center for Undergraduate Research, visit usmfoundation.com/supportcur.

BARNES & NOBLE
at SOUTHERN MISS

SHOW YOUR PRIDE WITH GOLDEN EAGLE GEAR

SAVE 25%
ON ONE USM SPIRIT APPAREL ITEM

Visit **WelcomeBackAlumni.com** to join and receive this exclusive offer.

By joining the Alumni Loyalty Program, you will receive a coupon code for 25% off one school logoed apparel item delivered to the email you used to sign up. Offer not valid on textbooks. Offer cannot be combined with any other promotion or discount. Coupon is not redeemable for cash. Exclusions may apply.

121 West Memorial Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39406 • (601) 266-4381

ShopSouthernMiss.com /SouthernMissBN /SouthernMissBooks

The University of Southern Mississippi's Southern Chorale will perform at the renowned Carnegie Hall in New York City next March.

Southern Chorale to Perform at Three National Events

The Southern Chorale, the University's top choral ensemble, has a successful history of performances at professional conferences, but this year, the group has been selected by blind panels to perform at two major national conventions, which led to their invitation to yet another major performance – a fully funded trip to Carnegie Hall in New York City.

More than 100 applications for performance and interest sessions were submitted to the National Collegiate Choral Organization (NCCO) in Portland, Ore., yet only six choirs were chosen for choral performance, including the Southern Chorale.

In Portland, they will be premiering *Canticle of the Sun*, a 12-movement song cycle written by Estonian composer Tõnu Kõrvits. Following his visit to Hattiesburg in 2014, which included a pilgrimage to the Mississippi Delta, Kõrvits composed this work with the inscription, "dedicated to all my brothers and sisters in blues, written for The Southern Chorale, Mississippi, conductor Dr. Gregory Fuller."

The second national convention the Southern Chorale will be attending is the Southern Division Convention of American Choral Directors Association in Chattanooga in March 2016. Fifteen choirs were chosen to perform, six of them being from the college and university category. A single panel of referees chose the winners through a blind process, allowing for the Southern Chorale to appear at this regional conference for the second time in the last decade.

Finally, the Southern Chorale will be performing *Canticle of the Sun*, as part of Gotham SINGS! Choral Showcase at Carnegie Hall in New York, also in March 2016. Gotham SINGS! is an event presented at Carnegie Hall in New York City each year by Sechrist Travel, designed to showcase the top collegiate choirs in the country. Carnegie Hall, one of the world's most famous concert venues, is home to this event.

"This event features invited ensembles in a solo performance under the direction of their own conductors," says Fuller. "It's a wonderful academic experience for our singers that allows them to showcase their hard work and talent."

A typical concert at this venue includes a sizable payment from each performing group to cover the costs of promotion of the concert and to provide a profit and service fee to the promoter. This year, the presenter, Sean Berg has offered to cover these costs for our students.

Berg noted, "I have known of Southern [Miss'] program, more specifically of Greg's work, since Iowa. As our history goes, right around Katrina, I had the Southern Chorale come to New York City to sing at Carnegie on Thanksgiving in a concert to raise money for Katrina victims. Since then, the program at Southern [Miss] has developed and grown into one of the top choral programs in the United States. Our ability to feature the Southern Chorale now in this way is a testament of the growth and success of the program at Southern Miss."

Alpha Chi Omega members celebrated their first formal recruitment in 2015.

Alpha Chi Omega Celebrates Year Anniversary at Southern Miss

The Kappa Sigma chapter of Alpha Chi Omega celebrated its one-year anniversary at Southern Miss on Nov. 15, 2015. Since receiving its charter, the founding class has worked tirelessly to make their home in the Greek Life community. The chapter has accomplished much throughout this first year, including winning Phi Mu's Bonnamu, taking first place in the sorority division of Chi Omega's Songfest and being named overall winners of Delta Tau Delta's Strike-out Hunger Food Drive.

The chapter also brings a new philanthropy to campus by supporting domestic violence awareness. Members held their first signature philanthropy event, Walk-A-Mile in Her Shoes, in April 2015. During this high-energy event, which brought light to a serious issue, men walked one mile around campus wearing women's red high heels. With more than 300 participants and $10,000 raised, the event was a definite success.

Recently, after moving into a newly remodeled house in The Village, Alpha Chi Omega participated in its first formal recruitment and 42 new members were welcomed into the sisterhood. The chapter is certainly making strides in the Greek community at Southern Miss.

Homecoming: Greek Life All In

The Greek Life community was well-represented during this year's Homecoming festivities. Greek Life members on the Homecoming Court include Miss Southern Miss Eboni Nicole, member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.; Mr. Southern Miss Katrell Lewis, member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.; Freshman Maid Betsy Redfern, member of Alpha Delta Pi; Sophomore Maid Jessica Bourgeois, member of Pi Beta Phi; Junior Maid Mary Blair Ward, member of Delta Gamma; Senior Maid Betsy Mercier, member of Delta Delta Delta; Graduate Maid Rachael Luckett, alumnae member of Delta Gamma; Student Body Maid Jessica Thompson, member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.; and Homecoming Queen Aleke Vehos, member of Chi Omega.

I came from a family where everyone went to the same university, and there was an expectation that I would do the same. But I wanted to do something different, and I have not regretted choosing Southern Miss.
For Emily Radcliffe, a New Orleans native, Southern Miss was not the place she expected to choose, but after a campus tour, she knew right away this was where she belonged. Emily chose her own path, and that decision paid off with an immediate job placement after graduation.
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
AA/EOE/ADAI UC 73736.5016 11.15
Choose to chart your own path. Choose Southern Miss.

A Love for Golf: Golden Eagle Creates Athletic Foundation Endowment

Former Southern Miss Golden Eagle Walter Love III was a member of the golf team for three seasons (1956, 59 and 60). Playing under Coach B.O. Van Hook, Love established himself as one of the most talented to have ever played at Southern Miss.

"I enjoyed my stay at Southern Miss," shared Love, who remembers fondly the time he shared with his teammates and coach. Love was inducted in the Sports Hall of Fame in April 1973, and purely out of his love for the University, has made a $20,000 contribution to endow a scholarship for a man or woman on the golf team at Southern Miss.

"I inherited some money, and my children were very much in favor of me making a contribution to my alma mater." When asked why he created this endowment, Love replied, "I love this university, and I want the golf team to be successful."

Love has a long family legacy of golf. His father was president of the Mississippi Senior Golf Association and his mother was president of the Mississippi Women's Golf Association. "My mother played golf every day," Love explained. Love served as president of the Mississippi Golf Association and his brother Stewart also played on the golf team at Southern Miss. He concluded, "I have a long history of golf."

Scholarship endowments through the Eagle Club support student-athletes, such as members of the Southern Miss women's golf team who ended the fall season with a victory. Pictured above with Assistant Golf Coach Eddie Brescher.

Love has stayed connected to the University by being a football season ticket holder and contributing to the M-Club. "I have really fond memories of my tenure at Southern Miss," he reflected. "It goes a long way back." Love celebrated his 80th birthday November 20.

If you are interested in establishing a scholarship endowment for a student-athlete, please contact the Southern Miss Athletic Foundation at 601.266.5055.

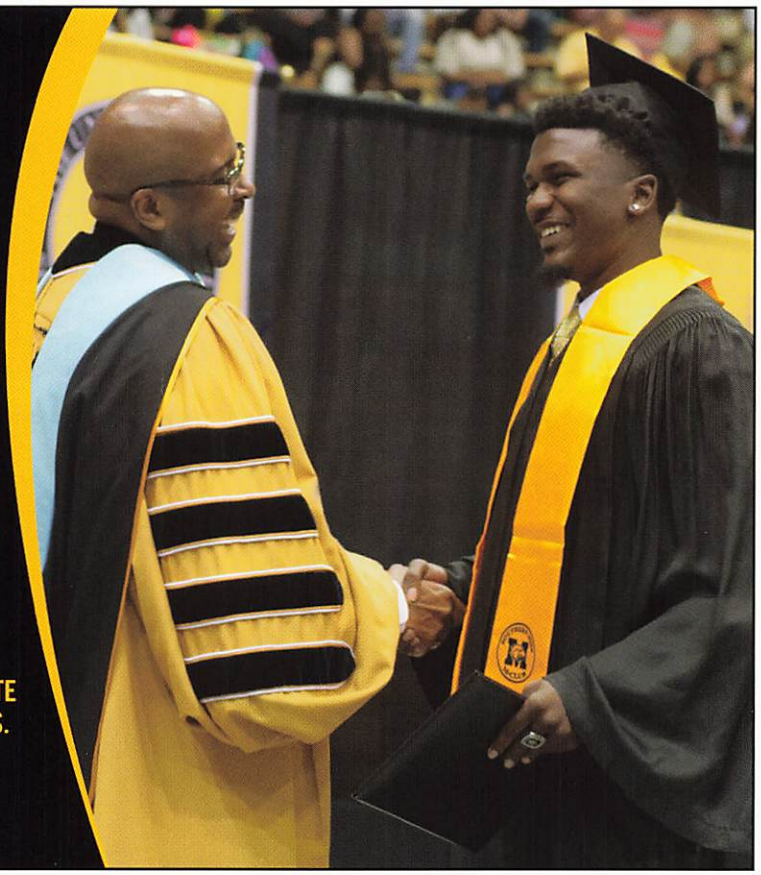
SUPPORT OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES IN THE CLASSROOM AND IN COMPETITION!

By supporting the Eagle Club Scholarship Fund, you receive membership benefits, including:

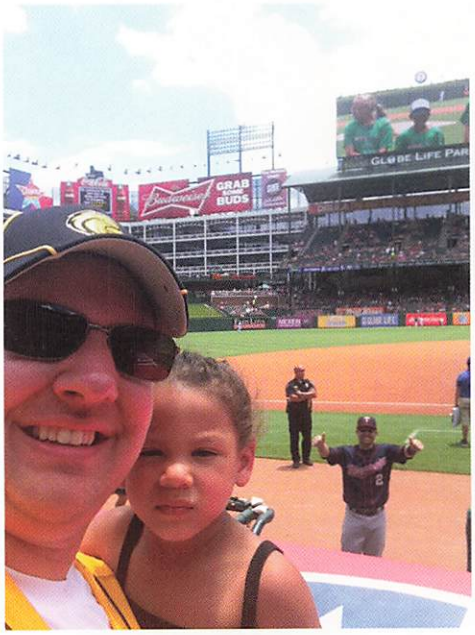
- Priority parking passes for football and men's basketball games (with season ticket purchase in respective sports)
- Invitation to Eagle Club member-only events
- Priority access to post season tickets in all sports
- Eagle Club discount card
- Tax deduction

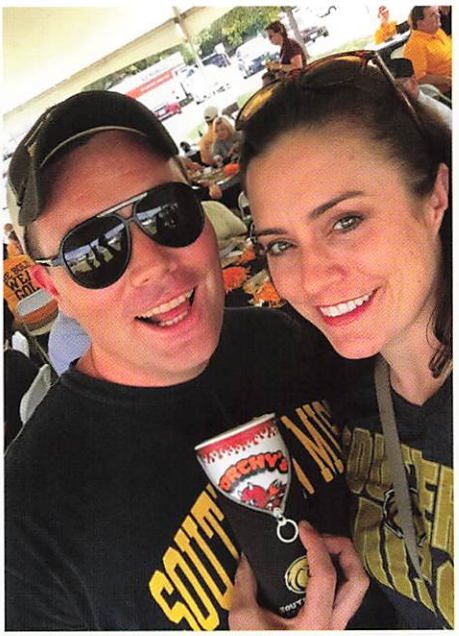
BECOME AN EAGLE CLUB MEMBER TODAY AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE EDUCATION OF GOLDEN EAGLE STUDENT-ATHLETES.

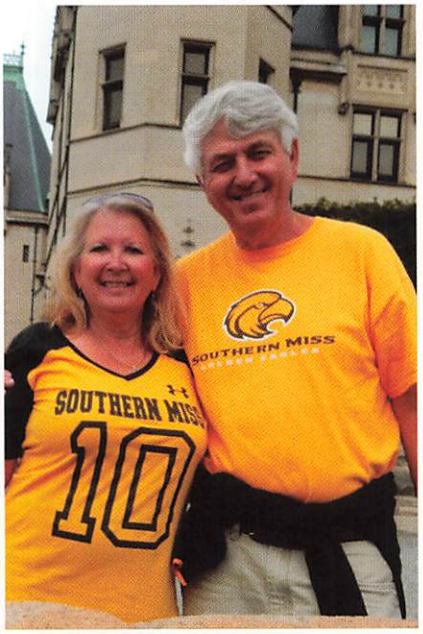
601.266.5299 | Eagle.Club@usm.edu | www.SouthernMiss.com

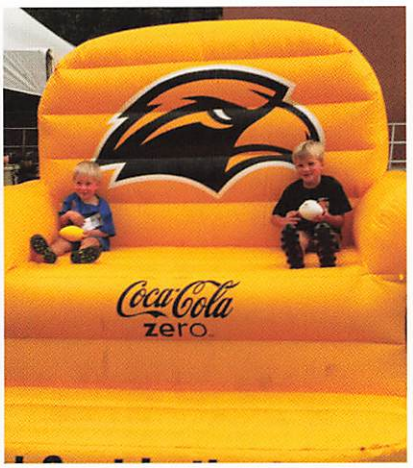


When you bundle up in black and gold this winter, share your photos with us! Send photos* of yourself, your family and friends, and we will print as many as space allows in a future edition of Snapshots.









Top Left: John Smalley '01 and his daughter, Kylee, were able to see Southern Miss Alumnus Brian Dozier in action and were able to get his autograph and photo at the Minnesota Twins vs. Texas Rangers baseball game on June 14, 2015.

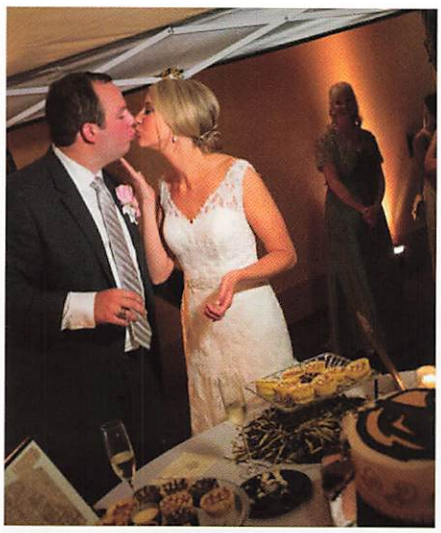
Top Center: Ian Grayson '05 at the Southern Miss vs. Texas State game.

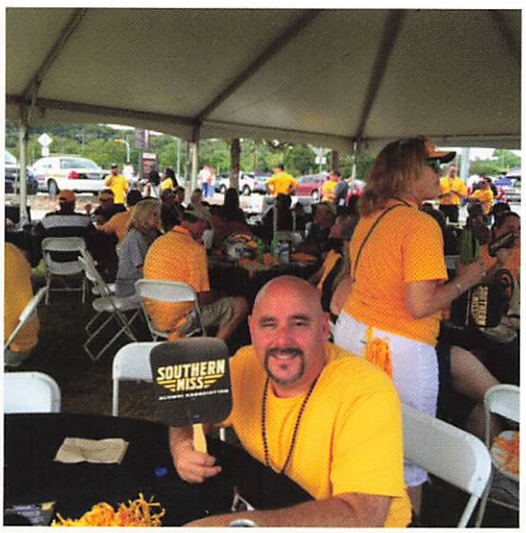
Top Right: Ricky and Mary Nobile proudly wore their Southern Miss gold as they toured the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C. on their recent road trip to watch the Golden Eagles win against UNCC in Charlotte, N.C.

Middle: Current and former Sigma Chi's at USM held an event in the Thad Cochran Center on Sept. 12, 2015 to honor Tom McDonnell, who was awarded a national honor by the fraternity called "Significant Sig."

Bottom Left: Taylor Alumni Events Homecoming Weekend Networking Mixer held on Oct. 16, and the Alumni Dinner Party on Oct. 17, were both hosted at the Hattiesburg Country Club. Pictured from left to right: Tunga Crudup, Pat Jackson, Sonya Jenkins, Tamara Gibson, Odell Taylor.

Bottom Right: Cash Cognevich, right, the grandson of Angie Collins' '92, '94, and his cousin, William Flowers, loved the "big chair" at the Southern Miss vs. Mississippi State game.





Top Left: Lauren White '07 and Shelia White '82, '87 visited the Arches National Park in southern Utah.

Top Right: Friends Gene Gouaux, Tim Bennett, Ryan Mahoney and Charles Arinder traveled back to Europe a decade after participating in the University's British Studies program. Not pictured: Jared Loftus.

Middle Left: Stewart Deen '11, '12 and Laura Welter Deen '12, '14 celebrated in Southern Miss spirit at their wedding on July 18 in Biloxi.

Middle Right: Dr. Robert Capraro '00, professor at Texas A&M, enjoyed the Sim-Tex L.P. tailgate at the Texas State game. Photo submitted by Dr. Mary Margaret Capraro.

Bottom Left: Sons of Jennifer Holmes Ratliff '05, Kenner and Kullen, had a blast at a Southern Miss baseball game.

Bottom Right: Tommy Vervaeke hosted his annual party on the river during the Madisonville Wooden Boat Festival. The Phi Kappa Tau Southern Miss Alumni pictured include: bottom left to right, Charlie Hewes, Greg Pietrangelo, David Morton and Scott Evans and top left to right: Tommy Vervaeke, John Atherton and Billy Hewes.

***For printing purposes, please save or scan your photos at a resolution of 300 dpi. If you have any questions, contact the Alumni Association at 601.266.5013.**

Now is your chance to catch up on the news and accomplishments of your fellow Golden Eagles. To submit your news to The Talon, please send your information to the Southern Miss Alumni Association, 118 College Drive #5013, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001, email alumni@usm.edu or post it online at SouthernMissAlumni.com. All cities are in Mississippi unless otherwise noted.

1930s

JESSE BARNETT '58 was appointed as Lauderdale County certified veteran's service officer for veteran's affairs in Jackson on March 9, 2015. He also welcomed a new great-granddaughter, Sadie Alyse Barnett, July 7, 2015.

1970s

MALCOM RONALD DOLEAC '70 is currently serving as place 4 chancellor in the 10th Chancery Court District of Mississippi serving Forrest, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River and Perry counties.

BETTY JUNE BRYANT '71 is serving as pianist and church clerk at Pine Burr Baptist Church and Bay Creek Baptist Church.

WAYNE BOYD '72 announces the birth of his seventh grandchild, Mirelle Rose Roe, on August 19, 2015, born to his daughter **MEGHAN ROSE BOYD ROE '02** and her husband Major Oliver Roe.

Kansas Corrections Secretary **RAY ROBERTS '74** is retiring after a 40-year career.

JIMMY HEIDELBERG '75 has been named to the 22nd edition of Best Lawyers in America in seven areas of law.

DR. DEBRA SPRING '75, '79 was recently hired as the dean of the School of Nursing at Alcorn Sate University.

DR. REBECCA FAIRCHILD '77, '00 was recently hired as the associate dean of the School of Nursing at Alcorn State University.

MYRA KAY HAMMON '79, '82 recently retired after 34 years as a middle and high school band director in Mississippi and Alabama.

1980s

DOTTI SIMPSON '81 has been named administrative director for Women's Services for Baptist Health Systems.

SAM FILLINGANE, D.O. '81 was named the chair and director of medical education for True Health Diagnostic Laboratory.

IDA BROWN '83 was promoted to city editor of *The Meridian Star* in April 2015. She has been with newspaper for 32 years.

HEDERMAN BROTHERS
PRINTING & DIRECT MAIL

PRINT | DIRECT | DIGITAL | GREEN | CROSS MEDIA | DESIGN

Creative & Innovative Solutions

500 Steed Road • Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157 • 601.853.7300 • 1.800.844.7301

Westside Studio

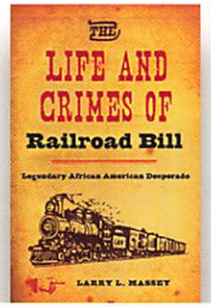
Art Studio, Bridal Registry, Gift Shop, Framing and More!

Located in the Newpointe Shopping Center at Highway 98 West
6555 U.S. Highway 98 West, Suite B, Hattiesburg, MS 39402
Phone: 601.579.9378

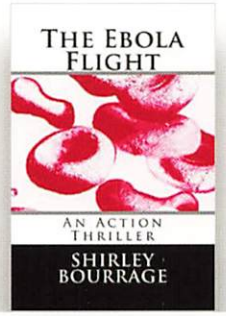
ALUMNI BOOKSHELF

CHECK OUT THESE BOOKS BY ALUMNI AUTHORS

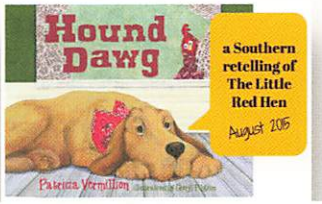
If you wish to be considered for coverage, please email alumni@usm.edu the title of your book, class year, publisher, year published and electronic image of the book's cover in a jpg, tif or pdf at 300 dpi.



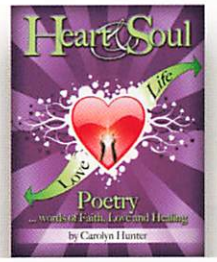
The Life and Crimes of Railroad Bill
Larry L. Massey '74, '77
University Press of Florida, 2015



The Ebola Flight
Shirley Bourrage Burton '72
CreateSpace, 2015



Hound Dawg
Patricia Wilhite Vermillion '69
Texas Christian University Press, 2015



Heart and Soul Poetry
Carolyn Hunter '83, '93
CreateSpace, 2011

BETTY YOUNG-CRYER '83 has been named administrator of Anderson Regional Medical Center-South.

CRAIG SMITH '84, attorney, has joined Butler Snow's business department. With over 23 years of legal experience, Smith adds experience in real estate development, finance, leasing and mergers and acquisitions, both within and outside of Mississippi.

JEFFERY W. STANOVICH '84 was named Employee of the Year for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's (FDIC) Washington, D.C. office. Jeffery is a senior examination specialist with the FDIC focusing on large financial institutions.

Fifth generation **Ann Marie Chilcutt '14** joins the ropes at her family's business in Columbus. Ben F. Chilcutt and Sons, now more widely known as New Home Building Stores, was founded in 1937, weathering the Great Depression and World War II. The company may have to edit the "and sons" phrase of their business name because Ann Marie is the first female family member to join the company ranks in a very male-dominated industry. Out of 350 storefronts in the buyer group that their company is a part of, there are only two female owners and four female store managers. Ann Marie is undeterred and determined to make a difference in her family's beloved business. Ann Marie works alongside her father and has fallen in love with the world of forklifts and warehouses.

Before returning home to her family's business, Ann Marie served Southern Miss as a regional recruiter in Birmingham, Ala., for a year. While at Southern Miss, Ann Marie served as Student Government Association president, was a member of the Honors College and graduated summa cum laude with a degree in communication studies.

Joan Strayham '02 has been named CEO of Stone County Hospital. She has held senior management positions at four Mississippi Health Management Associates hospitals, including River Oaks Hospital in Flowood, Northwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center in Clarksdale, Riley Hospital in Meridian and Biloxi Regional Medical Center. Strayham earned a Master of Science in Nursing from Southern Miss. Her healthcare career began in 1980 as a staff nurse at Biloxi Regional Medical Center.

DR. CARLA HOLDER '86 has been named Lumberton's Citizen of the Month for September. Holder is in her 13th year of employment in the emergency room at Merit Health Wesley.

DR. AARON PUCKETT '86 retired from his position as a professor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center after 30 years of service.

LEIGH ANN SOUTH '86 has been named community school director of C.A. Weis Elementary, a community school in Pensacola, Fla.

On Oct. 1, **JEFF CARTER '87** assumed the duties of president of Southern Insurance Group, headquartered in Columbia.

DR. ED PINERO '87 has been named director of career and technical education programs at Pearl River Community College.

JEFFERY BELK '88 of Vancleave has been appointed to a new Personal Service Contract Review Board that will examine state spending by Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves. He is currently the procurement coordinator at the Chevron Pascagoula Refinery.

DOROTHY ROBERTS MCEWEN '88 retired from South MS Regional Center with 28 years of state service. On September 19, 2015, she opened Robin's Nest in the Pass, a gallery gift shop located in beautiful downtown Pass Christian.

1990s

GEOFFREY L. IRELAND '90 has installed his real estate license with Berkshire Hathaway Carolina Sun.

STEVEN BROWN '90 has been named vice president of finance for Anderson Regional Health System after serving as controller and accounting director for the organization.

ELLIS SCREWS '95 was appointed as chief of the Vicksburg District Construction and A&E Branch of the Contracting Division.

ALLISION WILLIAMS LINGENFELTER '97, '07 married Jeffrey Lingenfelter May 15, 2015.

ANDY TUCCIO '97 has been named digital brand supervisor of the Godwin Group in Jackson.

DONNA HOGUE BOONE PH.D. '99 has been named superintendent of the Quitman School District.

AMY CASE '99 was honored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College Alumni Association as outstanding academic instructor of the year.

JENNIFER COFER '99, '00 was promoted to director of the End Tobacco Program, a brand new position within the division of cancer prevention at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.

ROBIN CADENA GUNN, PH. D. '99 was awarded a doctor of philosophy in nursing administration and education from William Carey University August 7, 2015. Robin also earned national certification as a certified nurse educator (CNE) from the National League for Nursing (NLN) in 2012.

KYLE HILL, DME '99 has recently been appointed chair of the Fine Arts and Communications Department at Pearl River Community College.

DAVID JOHNSON '99, recently joined Critical Care Medicine, a service of Hattiesburg Clinic, as an acute care nurse practitioner.

2000s

LAURA KNIGHT '00 has been promoted to chief nursing officer for Merit Health's Central Management Team.

GLORIA WESLEY STRAUTHERS '01 married her high school sweetheart David Strauthers June 6, 2015.

DEREK GRICE '02, '03 was named associate athletic director for facilities, operations & events at Georgia Tech.

Kristi Muench Pierce '95, '96 was named Outstanding Chi Omega Alumna of Mississippi at Chi Omega State Day on October 14, 2015 in Oxford, Miss. A member of the Epsilon Delta chapter of Chi Omega at Southern Miss during her college years, Pierce was recognized for her outstanding work as an advisor and mentor for the chapter in many capacities. Under her advisory leadership, the chapter raised over $50,000 at Songfest 2014 in support of Make-A-Wish, Chi Omega's national philanthropy. She chaired Chi Omega State Day in Hattiesburg in 2010, Epsilon Delta's 50th anniversary celebration in 1999 and has advised the chapter in scholarship, personnel and numerous other areas. Perhaps her greatest achievement and lasting legacy for Chi Omega was leading the 2006-07 fundraising campaign during the building and opening of the sorority houses at The Village at Southern Miss.

Pierce is married to former Southern Miss Vice President Bob Pierce, who has recently taken a position at the University of Alabama.

AMANDA ROGERS '03 was one of six state finalists for the 2014-2015 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) program. Amanda is a National Board and College Board certified mathematics teacher at Petal High School.

Harper Walker was born July 1, 2015 to **DEWAYNE '03** and **LORIECE '04 WALKER** in Houston, Texas.

DR. GLENN D. "PETE" SMITH JR. '04 recently began serving as the newly elected president of the American Journalism Historians Association as a faculty member of Mississippi State University's communication department.

BLAKE A. WALKER '05 has joined Citizens Bank as vice president and commercial lending officer at the Bellevue Branch.

Jones County Junior College art instructor, **MARK BROWN '05** has been selected as the JCJC 2015 Mississippi Humanities Teacher of the Year.

CLIFF '06 and **JULIE '04 RUSSUM**, along with big brother Banks, welcomed Anna Elease on May 23, 2015. Anna weighed 8 lbs. 7 oz. and was 21 inches long.

CARRIE HAIGLER SMITH '07, '11 became an assistant professor of audiology at Mississippi University for Women in August 2015.

TRACEY CREEL '08, a fifth-grade math, science and social studies teacher was chosen as the 2014-15 St. Martin Upper Elementary Teacher of the Year.

LANGSTON DARBY '09 has earned a full-tuition scholarship to study at the Atlantic Acting School, an acting conservatory in New York City.

2010s

CARL NORRIS CRAIG III '10 and **ANNE HOUSTON CUPIT '15** exchanged vows October 3, 2015 at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Brookhaven.

DESMOND LLOYD '10 has been named to a new position as an Auditor with Postlethwaite and Netterville in its Baton Rouge, La. office.

Ashley Cockerham Rea '13 has recently been named communication manager at Sanderson Farms, a position responsible for leading the company's newly formed Corporate Communication Department. Rea will serve as managing editor of the Sanderson Farms newsletter.

Aside from her duties as an editor, she will be responsible for identifying and executing strategies related to the company's approach to media relations and corporate communication. In addition to spearheading the company's communication efforts, Rea will ensure adequate internal communication is maintained amongst the company's nearly 12,000 employees.

David Ginn '84 was named among the Top 50 Economic Developers in North America. David currently serves as the president and CEO of The Charleston Regional Development Alliance (CRDA) in Charleston, S.C. David has been with the CRDA since its inception, serving as the executive vice president and project director before being named as president and CEO in 2000. He is a past president of the South Carolina Economic Developers Association and is affiliated with the International Economic Development Council. He currently serves on the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. David earned a degree in economics and international business from Southern Miss and he also studied abroad at the London School of Economics.

JESSICA MANNING '10 is in the process of launching a new business in Jackson County. The first of its kind on the coast, Superior Disability Advocates will assist with Individuals with Disabilities Education Act guidelines, Individual Education Program reviews, research and assistance with financial resources for clients.

LISA SEMERE '11 was appointed assistant principal at Paul Breaux Middle in Lafayette, La.

EVINGERLEAN D. BLAKNEY HUDSON '11, '15 was married September 10, 2015.

CYNTHIA MORGAN '11 of Lucedale was named the new branch manager for the Lucedale/George County Public Library.

Josh and **KRISTY SHELLEY BYRD '14** were married April 17, 2015 at The Cotton Market in Richland.

ZACH FETCKO '15 has joined KPMG as an audit associate.

In Memoriam

GENEVA BURRIS '46
of Magnolia died September 27, 2015.

MARTHA J. WILLIAMS '47
of Cleveland died July 25, 2015.

MARY C. GUNNELL '48
of Hammond, La., died July 22, 2015.

BERT JENKINS '48
of Hattiesburg died September 23, 2015.

JUSTINE MCCARTY '50
of Baton Rouge, La. died September 23, 2015.

ROBERT M. SOREY '50
of Pearl died October 15, 2015.

ROBERT D. LEE '51
of New Orleans, La., died June 9, 2015.

SHELLEY H. PHILLIPS '51
of Greenwood died October 13, 2015.

DAVID J. IRBY, '51
of Elizabethton, Tenn., died June 13, 2015.

BETTY J. ROBERTS '52
of Roswell, Ga. died September 24, 2015.

HUBERT L. SMITH '52, '64
of Hattiesburg died August 19, 2015.

GERALD E. BRIDGES '53
of Sanger, Texas, died June 19, 2015.

LLOYD D. BRINKMAN '53
of Kerrville, Texas died July 4, 2015.

TOLBERT ALLEN DANIELS, JR. '53
of Canton, Ga., died July 17, 2014.

ROBERT EARL "BOB" MCKELLAR '53
of Hattiesburg died August 12, 2015.

JAMES F. MCKENZIE '53
of Hattiesburg died July 17, 2015.

AUDICE V. SHELTON '53
of Gautier died August 24, 2015.

HERBERT F. ADAMS '54
of Pascagoula died August 3, 2015.

GERALDINE T. RITTER '54
of Amory died August 15, 2015.

RALPH SIMMONS '54
of Laurel died September 14, 2015.

CECIL P. WEBB '54
of Amite, La. died July 12, 2015.

DOYCE B. WARD '54
of Jackson died August 28, 2015.

CHARLES BEYSSELANCE '55
of Silver Springs, Md. died September 29, 2015.

ARNELL DUBOSE '55
of Mobile, Ala. died October 1, 2015.

CHARLES E. FELDER '55, '74
of Brandon died September 24, 2015.

CHARLES E. JORDAN '56
of Fairhope, Ala., died September 3, 2015.

REED "BOBBY" MCRANEY JR. '56
of Jackson died August 21, 2015.

CAROLYN MILLICAN '56
of Madison died August 6, 2015.

PATSY ROGERS '56
of Belle Chasse, La. died September 22, 2015.

CHARLOTTE DEWITT '57
of Laurel died August 2, 2015.

LEROY LIZANA '57, '60
of Houston died August 7, 2015.

WILLIAM RHODES '57
of Vancleave died August 19, 2015.

FRED E. CALCOTE, JR. '58
of Brookhaven died June 8, 2015.

ROBERT GWINNER '58
of Scottsdale, Ariz. died July 7, 2015.

WILLIAM D. MCQUEEN '58
of Oxford died September 11, 2015.

JAMES M. PULLEY '58
of Bolivar, Mo., died September 11, 2015.

RICHARD C. SMITH '58
of Tallahassee, Fla. died July 17, 2015.

WILLIAM TULLOS '58
of Raleigh died September 19, 2015.

JIM PAYNE '64, a member of the Alumni Association Hall of Fame Class of 1990, passed away August 29. Payne formed UAD Laboratories where he served as president and CEO. A Life Member of the Alumni Association, Payne served as president of the Alumni Association from 2008-09 and served as the USM Foundation president from 1988-89. Payne was a great friend to the University, and the Payne Center on the Hattiesburg campus will forever serve as a reminder of his legacy.

RALPH SIMMONS '54 of Laurel, retired U.S. Army colonel, passed away on September 14. Following his active duty in the Army, Ralph began his career with Northern Electric Company, served as vice president of Sunbeam Oster and was co-founder of the First National Bank of the Pine Belt. He served as president of the Alumni Association from 1973-74 and was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame class of 1987.

BARTHAL WAGGONER '58
of New Orleans, La. died October 17, 2015.

BARBARA A. BISHOP '59
of Osyka died July 29, 2015.

ANN B. BOLT '59
of Dublin, Va. died August 6, 2015.

WILLIAM MCKEOWN '59
of Largo, Fla. died September 16, 2015.

WILLIAM T. TIMS, II '59
of Cummings, Ga. died August 1, 2015.

KAY C. TISDALE '59
of Baton Rouge, La., died August 25, 2015.

BARNETT G. TRIPLETT '59
of Senatobia died August 27, 2015.

JERRY D. WATSON '59
of Redmond, Wash. died August 15, 2015.

JIMMIE A. KIRBY '60
of Charlotte N.C. died September 28, 2015.

ELIZABETH D. MORGAN '60
of Frisco City, Ala. died July 7, 2015.

MICHAEL D. TAYLOR, '60
of Enterprise died June 20, 2015.

JAMES A. MYRICK '60, '85
of Ridgeland died September 2, 2015.

CAROLYN W. FELSHER '61, '71
of Hattiesburg died September 10, 2015.

JAMES W. "BILLY" LARSON '61, '65, '67
of Gautier died September 16, 2015.

REBECCA G. MCLEOD '61
of Mobile, Ala. died July 24, 2015

PAUL RIMES '61
of Hattiesburg died August 16, 2015.

WAYNE B. MYERS '62, '77
of Brookhaven died July 20, 2015.

JOHN T. REEVE '62, '63
of Rochester, Minn. died July 8, 2015.

MICHAEL G. D'AMICO '63
of Woodland Park, N. J. died July 17, 2015.

ERNIE SYLVESTER '63
of Tampa, Fla. died on August 8, 2015.

ANNA HAMILTON '64
of Houston, Texas died August 24, 2015.

GEORGE L. HOSKIN, JR. '64
of Bat Cave N.C. died October 14, 2015.

WILLIE M. KILPATRICK '64
of Lubbock, Texas, died September 2, 2015.

LLOYD S. JONES '65
of Louisville died July 30, 2015.

HUGH E. BATEMAN'66, '69
of Anniston, Ala. died August 2, 2015.

CHARLOTTE CUTS '66
of Conway, S.C. died August 11, 2015.

HENRY M. LIPSEY '66
of Tuscaloosa, Ala. died July 7, 2015.

ERNEST R. WILLIAMS, JR. '66, '69
of Bogalusa, La. died July 15, 2015.

STEPHEN RAVESIES '67
of Brandon died October 22, 2015.

KENNETH D. CURRY '68
of Pensacola, Fla. died August 24, 2015.

RUFUS T. DECELL '68
of Hattiesburg died September 1, 2015.

WILLIAM PENDERGRASS '68
of Savannah, Ga. died August 12, 2015.

LOUIS N. RHODES '68
of Boonesville died August 19, 2015.

ANDREW SPENCE '68
of Bristol, Tenn. died October 1, 2015.

DONALD H. ANDERSON '69
of Rome, Ga. died September 7, 2015.

JOHN BURNS WARTHMAN '70
of Southern Pines, N.C. died September 29, 2015.

ERROLL ROSS HOGAN '71
of Brandon died August 1, 2015.

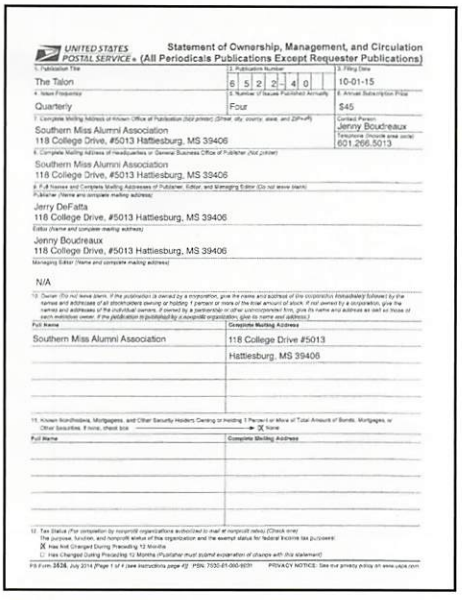
CLYDE N. THOMPSON '71
of Alexandria, La. died July 31, 2015.

MICHAEL A. TUCKER '71
of Bay Springs died October 15, 2015.

KAREN S. WALLACE '71
of Meridian died July 27, 2015.

GLEN E. GRANTHAM '72
of Perkinston died August 17, 2015.

JOHN F. PHILLIPS '72
of Crescent City, Fla. died August 2, 2015.



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title	2. Publication Number	3. Filing Date
The Talon	6 5 2 2 - 4 0	10-01-15
4. Issue Frequency	5. Number of Issues Published Annually	6. Annual Subscription Price
Quarterly	Four	$45

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): Contact Person: Jenny Boudreaux
Southern Miss Alumni Association
118 College Drive, #5013 Hattiesburg, MS 39406
Telephone (Include area code): 601.266.5013

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer):
Southern Miss Alumni Association
118 College Drive, #5013 Hattiesburg, MS 39406

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address):
Jerry DeFatta
118 College Drive, #5013 Hattiesburg, MS 39406
Editor (Name and complete mailing address):
Jenny Boudreaux
118 College Drive, #5013 Hattiesburg, MS 39406
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address):
N/A

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

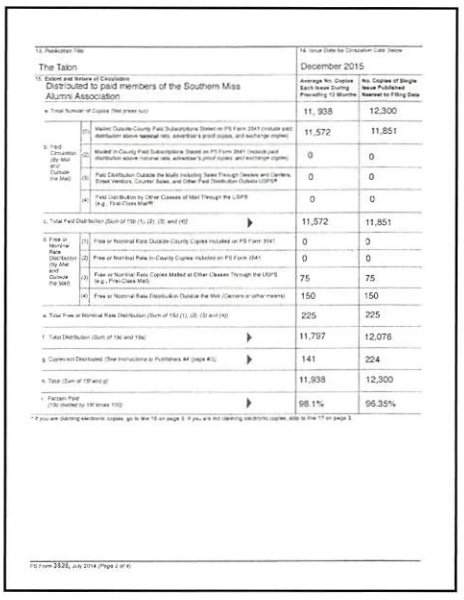
Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
Southern Miss Alumni Association	118 College Drive #5013 Hattiesburg, MS 39406

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box → ☒ None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 (see instructions page 4)) PSN: 7530-01-000-9931 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com



13. Publication Title: The Talon	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: December 2015	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: Distributed to paid members of the Southern Miss Alumni Association	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	11, 938	12,300
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail) (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	11,572	11,851
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	11,572	11,851
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail) (1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	75	75
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	150	150
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	225	225
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	11,797	12,076
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	141	224
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	11,938	12,300
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	98.1%	96.35%

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

16. Electronic Copy Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	0	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	0	0
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	0	0
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c × 100)	0	0

☐ I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
☒ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the Winter issue of this publication. ☐ Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Associate Director for External Affairs — Date: 10-1-15
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 3 of 4) PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

PAUL RIMES '61 of Hattiesburg passed away on August 16. He was an exceptional businessman in Atlanta, Ga., and Dallas, Texas, but he returned home to Hattiesburg with Deposit Guaranty Bank until he retired. He served on the USM Foundation Board, was the Alumni Association president from 1980-81 and was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame in 1991.

SUE SHIVERS '73
of Mobile, Ala. died August 10, 2015.

DENNIS G. PETERSON, SR. '74, '04
of Perkinston died August 20, 2015.

JIM SIMONS '74
of Calera, Ala. died October 8, 2015.

CHRISTINE SMITH '74
of Biloxi died October 21, 2015.

JOHN E. GINSKEY '75
of Eau Claire, Wis., died September 2, 2015.

JULIA A. HELFRICH '75
of Ridgeland died August 13, 2015.

DOROTHY SHIRLEY WILLIAMS POUNCEY '75
of Greenville died August 19, 2015.

DAVID M. SESSUMS '75
of Vicksburg died March 13, 2014.

W.T. BRADLEY '76
of Clinton died August 21, 2015.

JACKIE SMITH '76
of Mount Hermon, La., died September 14, 2015.

VICTOR L. WILKERSON '76
of Wichita, Kan., died August 27, 2015.

GERALD L. DAVIS '77
of Hattiesburg died July 15, 2015.

STEPHEN FERRY, JR. '77
of Biloxi died October 17, 2015.

MARVIN BREAZEALE '78
of Purvis died October 8, 2015.

JOHN F. GRAY '78
of Middleton, Tenn., died September 16, 2015.

DEBORAH A. LEWIS '79
of Gulfport died October 14, 2015.

LORETTA E. BARNES '80
of Pearlington died September 2, 2015.

CLARA F. DRAKE '80
of Vicksburg died September 16, 2015.

PAUL GRUBBS '80
of Pinola died August 15, 2015.

LOUIS SWAIN '81
of Bettendorf, Iowa died July 18, 2015.

RAYMOND VALLIMONT '81, '84
of Biloxi died October 2, 2015.

ALVIE SISSOM '82
of Biloxi died August 27, 2015.

VALERIE L. HUBER '82
of Pueblo, Colo. died July 10, 2015.

MARK C. CARMICHAEL '83
of Madison died August 24, 2015.

MARK WELDY '83, '91
of Hattiesburg died July 1, 2015.

BRENDA WHIDDON '84
of Lutz, Fla. died September 1, 2015.

BETTY M. LANE '85
of Shelbyville, Tenn., died September 6, 2015.

PAUL D. HOWARD '86
of Carthage died August 19, 2015.

IVAN MIETCHOVICH, JR. '86
of Amite, La. died September 25, 2015.

HARVEY HOGAN '87
of Hattiesburg died October 15, 2015.

CELIA M. O'NEAL '87, '89
of Cuero, Texas died July 1, 2015.

D. STEVEN MCCARTNEY '88
of Hattiesburg died July 21, 2015.

RONALD E. PALMER '88
of Stafford, Va. died October 10, 2015.

VANESSA D. KING '89, '96
of Jayess died July 29, 2015.

JACK D. MCGILL '90
of Harrisville died July 15, 2015.

CALVIN O'NEIL '90
of Winchester, Va. died September 21, 2015.

JOHN H. CARRADINE '92
of Mandeville, La., died August 22, 2015.

LISA T. EVANS '94
of Daphne, Ala. died July 26, 2015.

TAMMY B. FOUNTAIN '96
of Mount Vernon, Ga. died September 30, 2015.

DEWEY D. BLACKLEDGE, JR. '97
of Laurel died September 6, 2015.

TERESA MENDOZA '97, '99
of Gautier died October 10, 2015.

MICHAEL C. JOHNSON '99
of Tylertown died August 16, 2015.

CARLA L. YORK '05
of Guntersville, Ala., died September 16, 2015.

MARY WHITE MASSENGALE
of McKinney, Texas died August 30, 2015.

JAMES W. HAYNES, II.
of Pensacola, Fla., died October 18, 2015.

IN MEMORIAM

MR. RALPH SIMMONS
CLASS OF 1954

"They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor."
– ISAIAH 61:3

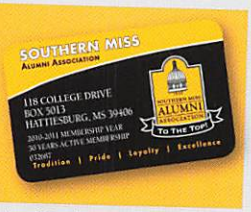
IN MEMORIAM

MR. JIM PAYNE
CLASS OF 1964

"They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor."
– ISAIAH 61:3

C.A.R.D.

Current Alumni Retail Discounts



This listing contains current participants in The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association's C.A.R.D. Program. By presenting either your Southern Miss Alumni Association annual dues membership card or your Life Membership card, you will receive the discount noted by each participant. The program is designed to bring added value to your membership in the Alumni Association and to thank you for your support of Southern Miss.

Aaron's Sales and Lease	*50% discount on first month's payment on any new lease agreement*
Anderson's Rug Market	*10% discount on any rug purchase*
Bourne Brothers Printing	*10% discount on any service*
Chesterfield's*	*10% off entrée*
Classic Concepts/ACE Home Center	*10% discount on purchases or rentals*
Comfort Inn-The Lodge*	*10% off rack rate*
Comfort Suites*	*10% off rack rate*
Command Spanish, Inc	*20% discount on online language courses at commandspanishonline.com when applying USMAA20 promotional code*
Community Bank of MS (mortgage)	*$200 discount on select services*
Firehouse Subs	*Free drink with purchase of sandwich*
The First, A Natl. Banking Assoc.	*$200 discount on closing costs on mortgage loans*
Golden Eagle Storage	*5% discount on rental*
Grand Bank	*$100 discount on mortgage loan closing costs*
Hattiesburg Zoo	*$1 off admission*
Heritage Vision Center	*10% discount on all eyeglasses and sunglasses for regular members and 20% discount for Life Members*
Holiday Inn	*10% off rack rate*
Holiday Inn Express, Lucedale	*15% off standard room rate*
Hopson Law Firm, PLLC	*Free initial consultation on any contingency fee case, 10% discount on consultation fee on non-contingency cases*
Kitchen Table	*10% discount on cooking classes*
Lance Computer Systems	*20% discount on normal labor charges*
Leatha's Bar-B-Que Inn	*10% discount on all purchases*
McLeod & Associates, P.A.	*10% discount on estate planning, business entity formation and other legal services*
Mike's Tire and Wheel	*10% discount on all sales*
Mosquito Defense Solutions	*$150 discount on system installation*
Newk's Express Café	*10% discount on purchases, excluding alcohol*
Oak Grove Plaza Package Store	*10% discount on purchases*
Oak Grove Rental	*10% discount on rental items / not valid with other offer*
O'Charley's*	*10% discount on all purchases, excluding alcohol*
Owen's Business Machines	*10% discount on selected items*
Parris Jewelers	*10% discount on all items*
Pine Belt Promos	*10% discount on any purchase*
Pine Burr Country Club	*$5 off one 18-hole round of golf*
Priceless Rent-a-Car	*10% discount on rental cars, trucks and passenger vans*
Prime Mortgage, Inc.	*$250 closing cost discount*
Signs First*	*15% discount on Southern Miss-related signs*
Simmons Furniture	*10% discount on all items*
Sonic Drive Inn on Hwy 11	*Free 20 oz. drink or slush with purchase of #1 or #2 burger*
Southern Interiors	*5% discount on flooring*
Southern Oaks Catering	*10% discount on takeout orders (weddings excluded)*
Southern Oaks Florist	*15% discount on funeral, hospital and home arrangements (weddings excluded)*
Southern Oaks House and Gardens	*20% discount on facility and room rentals*
Tall Pines Farm	*10% discount on gift baskets and catering*
University Florist	*10% discount on all purchases (excluding holiday's and wire outs)*
Weekender	*$10 off purchase of $50 or more*

^ All discounts subject to change or termination without prior notice. Please verify discount with provider before making purchase. *Hattiesburg locations only.

SOUTHERN MISS ALUMNI MARKETING PARTNERS

Continue your support of The University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association by doing business with the Association's Marketing Partners. By utilizing the goods and services of these marketing partners, you will be gene additional revenue to support the programming and operations of the Associ

Bank of America

Bank Of America®
Special offer for Southern Miss alumni and friends! Announcing a special No-Annual-Fee MasterCard® credit card now conveniently available to Southern Miss alumni. Simply call 1.800.932.2775 for details about the costs and terms of this offer or to apply for the credit card.

Balfour

Balfour
Official Southern Miss Ring. For more information or to order, call 1.866.BALFOUR and ask for reference code 2315.

MERCER

Mercer Health & Benefits Administration LLC
Whether it is life, health, or long-term care insurance, you can obtain important financial protection for your family at an affordable rate through Mercer Health & Benefits Administration LLC. For more information, call 1.888.560.ALUM (2586).

Liberty Mutual

Liberty Mutual
Liberty Mutual is the official home and auto insurer of the Southern Miss Alumni Association. For more information, call 1.800.981.2372.

Westside Studio

Sumrall Printing and Fra
Printing and Framing. For more information, call 1.866.418.0320.

CAMPUS BOOK MART

Campus Book Mart
Southern Miss Apparel and Gifts. For more information, call 1.888.712

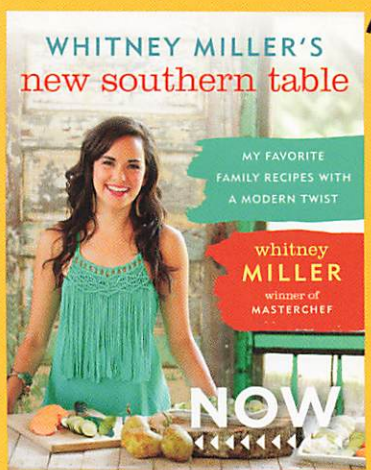
DiplomaDisplay®

Specially Designed Southern Miss Degree Frames
Order your custom Southern Miss diplo frame and preserve your achievement fo lifetime with Diploma Display. To order, www.diplomadisplay.com/usm.

SOUTHERN MISS BOOKSTORE
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
BARNES&NOBLE

Barnes and Noble
Your school. Your bookstore. Located on the Hattiesburg campus of The University Southern Mississippi. For more informat 601.266.4381.

THEN AND Now



Since graduating from Southern Miss, Whitney Miller has traveled the globe cooking and sharing her Southern hospitality. Her recipes have been featured in numerous magazines, including *People, Southern Living, Clean Eating* and *Taste of Home*. On Oct. 27, 2015, Miller released her second cookbook, *Whitney Miller's New Southern Table*. She also began working with John Rivers of 4Rivers Smokehouse as chef de cuisine at his Southern restaurant, The COOP, located in Winter Park, Fla. She currently resides in Plant City, Fla., with her husband Ryan Humphrey.

The University of Southern Mississippi
Alumni Association
118 College Drive, #5013
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5013

DICAL

MIX
Paper from responsible sources
FSC® C012232

RECOMMEND FUTURE GOLDEN EAGLES!

Southern Miss alumni contribute to the University's tradition of success. One way alumni can best support their alma mater's continuing legacy of excellence is by recommending future students.

To recommend a student to The University of Southern Mississippi, visit

SouthernMissAlumni.com/USMLegacy.

AA/EOE/ADA | UC 73732.5013 11.15